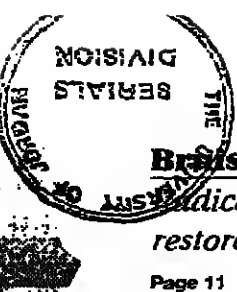




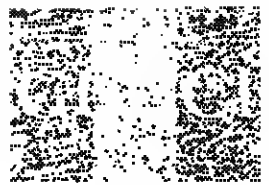
John Cleese
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FINANCIAL TIMES

MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 1993 D8523A

G7 prepares for showdown with Russia on reform

The Group of Seven industrialised countries and leading international financial institutions believe Russian reforms may not survive the present period of political uncertainty and are preparing for a showdown with the Russian government after the summer holiday season.

One diplomat in Moscow said yesterday: "The reformers in the cabinet presently look weak and isolated, unable to move." Sergei Shakhrai, a deputy prime minister and a close aide to President Boris Yeltsin, said the basic institutions of authority were paralysed. Page 12

Albert succeeds Baudouin: King Baudouin of Belgium, who died of a heart attack in Spain on Saturday aged 82, will be succeeded by his brother, Prince Albert, 59. The crown had been expected to pass to Prince Albert's son, Prince Philippe. Page 12

Demjanjuk's deportation blocked

Israel's Supreme Court, which last week cleared John Demjanjuk (left) last week of being "Ivan the Terrible", the gas chamber operator at Treblinka death camp in world war two, blocked his deportation to his native Ukraine while it considers whether he can stand trial for other alleged war crimes. His departure was challenged on the basis that he was a guard at other camps.

Asahi Glass, the leading Japanese maker of glass products, reported an 11.7 per cent fall to ¥20.05bn (\$190m) in pre-tax profit for the first half to June, as sales of glass and construction materials slipped in tandem with private construction orders in Japan. Page 15

12 die in crash: Twelve people were killed and eight injured when an express train crashed into their farm trailer as they crossed the tracks near Ulfassa, in southeast Romania.

IRI, Italy's state holding company, will postpone until at least September the sale of Cirio-Bertolli-Rica, the canned food division of its foodstuffs group, SMI, claiming the bids received were inadequate. Page 15

Aid for co-operatives: The Japanese government is to provide ¥19bn (\$180m) to help restructure Osaka Fumin Credit Co-operative. The move is another sign of official concern about deteriorating public confidence in some smaller financial institutions. Page 15

Fresh Microsoft probe: The anti-trust division of the US Justice Department is to review documents relating to the business practices of Microsoft, the world's largest computer software company, following the failure of the Federal Trade Commission to agree on the case after a three-and-a-half year investigation. Page 2

Kurds kill 17: Guerrillas belonging to the separatist Kurdistan Workers Party, armed with rocket launchers and automatic weapons, killed 17 paramilitary police commandos in east and south-east Turkey, security officials said yesterday.

Northwest Airlines, fourth largest US carrier, suffered a \$135.2m after-tax loss for the second quarter after taking a charge of nearly \$100m linked to its financial restructuring. However John Daburg, president, said the company now had one of the most competitive cost-structures of all US airlines. Page 15; Qantas Airways chief executive to resign, Page 15

Banesto: A dramatic increase in provisions to Ptas2.4bn (\$377m) brought pre-tax profits for the Spanish commercial bank down to Ptas7.7bn, an 82.6 per cent drop on the 1992 first half figure of Ptas33bn. Page 15

Aetna Life & Casualty, one of the largest US composite insurers, turned in improved results for the second quarter but said its earnings remained unsatisfactory. Page 15

Specialist Computer Holdings, one of the UK's largest independent computer sales companies, is to invest about £40m (\$62.2m) in launching a nationwide chain of computer superstores. Page 13

BAT Industries, Anglo-American tobacco and insurance group, would consider taking a majority stake in the tobacco operations of Seita, the French state-owned tobacco monopoly, following its privatisation. Page 14

Gold rush: London investors are being asked to provide \$5m (\$13.3m), and possibly \$50m, for a gold mining venture in the newly-independent republic of Kazakhstan, formerly part of the Soviet Union. Page 14

Nefta under attack: US labour leaders, environmentalists and the "Perotists" supporting ex-presidential candidate Ross Perot have signed a declaration of war against the North American Free Trade Agreement. Page 2

Deutsche Bank in Treuhand deal: The Treuhand, charged with privatising eastern German industry, has sold a portfolio of businesses to Deutsche Bank, which will restructure and attempt to sell them. Page 13

Trade plea: The emergent economies of central and eastern Europe and the European Free Trade Association countries should make less of their "EC-manias", and focus more instead on their increasingly important bilateral relationship, says leading trade economist Richard Baldwin. Page 2

EC holds crisis talks in struggle to save ERM

By Peter Marsh and Lionel Barber in Brussels and agencies

EUROPEAN Community finance ministers were last night fighting to save the European exchange rate mechanism, examining options ranging from making the embattled system more flexible to suspending its operating rules.

At an emergency meeting in Brussels, ministers and central bank governors from the 12 EC states focused on ways to widen the ERM's existing fluctuation bands for its eight member currencies, including the ailing French franc. Other options being pursued included a change in the rules obliging intervention by central banks to buy weak currencies, or allowing some or all the currencies to float.

The efforts were interpreted as a bid by EC governments to buy time in a desperate effort to reassemble financial markets that the mechanism has a future.

The meeting was reported last night to have set itself a deadline of midnight Brussels time (10pm GMT) because of the opening of the Tokyo foreign exchange. Suspension of the ERM rules was described as a "last resort".

Ministers were trying to forge a compromise aimed at avoiding a politically humiliating devaluation for the French franc while avoiding a confrontation with the Bundesbank over interest rate policy.

THE ERM IN CRISIS

- Page 4
- War of words in press
- Inflationary flames fuelled
- Swimming against tide

Samuel Britten, Page 10; Observer, Page 11; Lex, Page 12; Capital markets, Pages 16-17

On Saturday, after more than six hours of deliberations, the EC monetary committee proved unable to resolve these tensions. There was no evidence yesterday of any overt pressure on Mr Helmut Schlesinger, president of the Bundesbank, to force a wholesale reduction of borrowing rates in Germany. Lack of a move in this direction by the German central bank last Thursday triggered two days of unprecedented selling of weak ERM currencies - including the French and Belgian francs, Danish kroner, Spanish peseta and Portuguese escudo.

Yesterday's talks instead seemed to focus on reforming the 14-year-old ERM. However, as Irish official that the talks were "extremely fluid". A Spanish monetary official said that, apart from the ideas related to currency bands and intervention

rules, "other options were not entirely off the table".

Mr Philippe Maystadt, finance minister of Belgium, which holds the rotating EC presidency, was last night holding bilateral talks with individual member states to discuss the remaining options.

Of these, widening the fluctuation bands would give the system more flexibility, but a possible drawback is that financial markets could be encouraged to test the wider limits and so make the system less more secure.

The ERM's bands prescribe the margin individual currencies can fluctuate around the D-Mark. They allow currencies to move 2.25 per cent around their central D-Mark rate - exceptions being the escudo and peseta, which have wider bands of 6 per cent.

Another factor is that a widening of the limits could also be interpreted as an effective devaluation of the weak currencies and, in the case of France, an abandonment of the current fixed parity link with the D-Mark.

One possibility on changing the rules for intervention is that the obligation of the Bundesbank to support fragile ERM currencies could be reduced as a way to stem the large losses on these operations incurred by the German bank in the past year.

It was unclear last night whether these options would satisfy financial markets that the ERM could be given a new lease



German finance minister Theo Waigel arriving for the emergency EC meeting in Brussels yesterday

of life after a year of virtually continuous strains and the spending last Thursday and Friday of an estimated DM75bn (\$43bn) by Europe's central banks in propping up weak currencies.

Mr Theo Waigel, the German finance minister, stressed ministers' determination to find a solution to the crisis. "There must be peace in the markets," said.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Britain's chancellor of the exchequer, said he hoped any solution to the crisis would have the goal of helping economic recovery. Britain left the ERM last September.

The emergency meeting was called by Germany after long

talks between Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Mr Theo Waigel, German finance minister, and Mr Helmut Schlesinger, Bundesbank president, on Friday evening at Mr Kohl's holiday home near Wolfenbüttel.

French TV stations said last night France was demanding that the D-Mark's fluctuation bands be widened from 2.25 per cent to 6 per cent and that the Bundesbank promise to cut rates before September. France 2 and TF1 stations said Paris was insisting any widening of bands apply to the D-Mark and not to other currencies and a timetable be agreed for a return to narrower bands.

According to another report, six options under consideration last night appeared to be:

- The D-Mark and Dutch guilder leave the ERM indefinitely.
- Continue central bank intervention to support existing parities.
- Suspend the system entirely.
- Permanently fix the exchange rate parities of the "core" ERM members - Germany, France and the Benelux countries - for a rapid move towards mini-European Monetary Union.
- Widen all the currency fluctuation bands to 6 per cent.
- Introduce wider bands just for the D-Mark and the guilder.

London dealers in vigil as Far East markets open

By James Blitz in London

FOREIGN exchange dealers in London were preparing last night for an unusual out-of-hours trading session as they waited for European Community finance ministers to decide on the future of the exchange rate mechanism.

London currency dealers were poised to make prices in Asian trading time. Such trading is usually limited to the night of a UK general election or a US presidential poll.

The ministers' meeting in Brussels

was expected to have a powerful effect on today's trading in currencies, bonds and equities. The overwhelming view in the London market was that the selling of the French franc would only stop this week if France announced substantial cuts in interest rates.

"People have been selling the franc because they believe that France's interest rates are too high," said Mr Paul Chertkow, global currency strategist at Uoloo Bank of Switzerland in London. "The selling will only stop if France reduces them to 4 per cent by the end of

the year." The French intervention rate stood yesterday at 6.75 per cent.

A broad cut in rates, including the German discount rate, would trigger a rally on European bond markets, not only in France, but also in Belgium and Italy, which would benefit from the reduction in borrowing costs to fund their deficits.

Some dealers believed that the continuing crisis in the ERM could be staved off for a few weeks if there was a realignment, or a widening of the French franc's fluctuation band against

the D-Mark. But few believed that this would be a long-term solution, even if it was accompanied by modest cuts in German and French interest rates.

Some dealers thought a suspension of the system was the most likely outcome, allowing Europe to cut short-term interest rates, and letting Europe's currencies float for the first time in 14 years.

But dealers were uncertain whether the market would buy or sell a freely floating franc, dealers believed the franc would depreciate against the D-Mark in the short term as France cuts interest

rates. But others thought the franc could appreciate above the FF3.40 level against the D-Mark because of France's strong trade and current account position.

Mr Eric Fishwick, an analyst at IBI International in London, said that the end of the ERM could trigger the start of a long-term move out of the D-Mark into other European currencies and the dollar.

"Take the system away, and you are left looking at Germany's fundamental economic weakness," he said.

Border talks begin on Bosnian republics

By Laura Silber in Geneva

INTERNATIONAL mediators in Geneva pressed on yesterday with the ethnic partition of Bosnia as Muslim president Alija Izetbegovic appeared to admit defeat by his Serb and Croat enemies.

Fierce fighting raged in the former Yugoslav republic as representatives of Bosnia's Muslims, Serbs and Croats met under UN auspices to try to hammer out agreement over the borders for a new "union" of three ethnic republics.

Under a news blackout, the peace mediators, Lord Oweo and Mr Thorvald Stoltenberg, were understood to have tried to put pressure on Mr Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, to hand over land to Bosnia's Muslims, who control just 10 per cent of the republic's territory.

Mr Karadzic at the weekend offered to cede 15 per cent of the 72 per cent of the republic controlled by Serb forces, but there appeared to be no tangible concessions in the talks.

The international mediators have set a target of 30 per cent of the land for Muslims, a figure they see as a reasonable minimum for the functioning of a viable state.

Mr Izetbegovic endorsed ethnic partition at the weekend. "Compared to what was planned for

us, I hope that we fared rather well because we survived," he told Sarajevo radio.

As he negotiated with the Serbs and Croats, snipers shot dead three people and wounded another five as they tried to escape from Sarajevo - which has been under a Serb siege from the surrounding hills for 16 months - by running across the UN-controlled airport, said UN officials.

In a sign that a settlement would fuel the "snap-war" between Muslims and Croats, Bosnian radio reported intense fighting in central and northern Bosnia as the mainly Muslim forces tried to secure more territory.

Sarajevo radio said Serb forces launched an offensive around Zvornik and Doboj in northern Bosnia. "The Zvornik front... is a veritable inferno today... the free Zvornik territory is in flames," the radio said. Serblan media said a Muslim infantry attack was repulsed in Doboj.

Meanwhile in Croatia's Dalmatian hinterland, Serb rebels began shelling a strategic bridge 16 hours after the expiry of a deadline for handing it over to UN control.

At the talks in Geneva, a Serb

Christopher to hold talks on ceasefire

By Roger Matthews in Washington, Mark Nicholson in Beirut and Julian Ozzame in Jerusalem

MR Warren Christopher, the US secretary of state, prepared to set out for the Middle East yesterday as Israeli tanks and troops crossed back into northern Israel and thousands of Lebanese refugees began the trek back to villages bombed for a week.

Mr Christopher, who is due in Egypt today before travelling on to Syria, Jordan and Israel, will be trying to strengthen the fragile ceasefire in southern Lebanon, reached over the weekend, and seeking to revive the stalled peace negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

US officials were in no doubt about the difficulties faced by Mr Christopher and the extent to which his task had been complicated by the week-long Israeli attacks on Lebanon which killed more than 130 civilians, wounded at least 500 and drove an estimated 250,000 people from their homes.

The ceasefire, which came into effect on Saturday after a series of telephone calls by Mr Christopher to the region's leaders, held

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NEWS: INTERNATIONAL

How López agonised over rival tugs on his heart

By Christopher Parkes

THE PLOT of the all-action espionage drama involving two of the world's top automotive groups seemed in danger at the weekend of dissolving into a tearjerker.

According to a meticulous diary of events kept by Mr Jens Neumann, Volkswagen's personnel director, on March 13 he phoned Mr José Ignacio López de Arriortúa, who, four days earlier, had signed a contract to join VW from General Motors.

Mr López was not at home, he was told. But then he came to the phone to explain that four GM directors had just left. They had begged him to stay because otherwise General Motors would go bust and 400,000 families would lose their jobs. "He said he was prepared to stay," he

asked Mr Piëch to forgive him; he was a broken man," according to extracts from Mr Neumann's diary.

His notes were presented in evidence last week to Darmstadt prosecutors investigating GM's suspicions of industrial spying against Mr López, and released by VW at the weekend. While the parts of his evidence published threw no light on the burning issue of whether Mr López and his associates systematically plundered the US group's secrets before joining VW, they illuminated the bizarre tug-of-war which preceded the spying charges.

Mr Neumann's notes contain the only points of detail so far to emerge on which evidence from the two sides does not clash substantially.

On the evidence of the extracts,

Mr Jack Smith, GM president, was fighting to keep Mr López even as the US group announced that he was to leave. At 11.30am on March 12, Mr López called Mr Neumann to say Mr Smith had turned on the emotional pressure, allegedly saying he would be sacked if he let the Basque engineer go to Germany.

According to raw notes taken on Saturday March 13 by Mr López's former PR aide, Ms Toni Simonetti, and read out in a Hamburg court recently, Mr López was visited in Detroit on the evening of Friday, March 12, by Mr Smith, Mr Richard Wagoner, finance director, and Mr Harry Pearce, GM's legal brain.

They "spoke to me like a father and two brothers... we made a mistake not to understand your vision... we want to learn from

our mistakes... that broke my heart," Mr López said, according to Ms Simonetti's notes. They continued: "A different GM first ever the big company can have soul warm and can live for each other..."

Mr López has repeatedly denied dictating these words, intended for a speech due to be delivered on Monday, March 15, to explain to GM employees why he had, after all, decided to stay in the US.

Back in Mr Neumann's diary, an entry timed at 11.00am on the day Ms Simonetti allegedly took down the outline speech, Mr López was on the phone to Germany again. He had told Mr Smith there was no way back, he could not leave VW in the lurch. "The word of a Basque cannot be broken."

After another call at 4.30pm the

same day, when Mr López had apparently broken, changed his mind again and asked for the VW chairman's forgiveness, there were two more calls in which Mr López was offered and accepted a compromise from Mr Piëch. He could stay at GM, and join VW in a year.

On Sunday March 14, the vacillating Basque called Mr Neumann. He would try to get GM to rights within a year and then reconsider his position. He had not slept for four nights, he said. He was back on the line the next day. The US group wanted to lock him into a five-year contract as president of GM North America, but his "heart and mind belonged to Germany, and he had a clear vision for Europe," according to Mr Neumann.

Within minutes, Mr Piëch was on

the phone to his "very unhappy" director-to-be. "This strengthened his resolve to fly to Germany today. He needs him now," the notes said. Half an hour later Mr López and his family were on the way to the airport.

Mr Neumann's published extracts ended: "March 16, 1993, 10am: I collect Mr López from Braunschweig airport and bring him to the supervisory board meeting which has already started."

In Detroit, on the advice of Mr Pearce, the office of the Basque had been searched in vain for secret documents. The fruitless hunt was under way for more papers, pictures and files, alleged to have been assembled by his closest colleagues. The spying drama was about to begin.

Car groups' spying dispute set to enter decisive stage

By Christopher Parkes in Frankfurt

THE investigation of General Motors' spying allegations made against senior Volkswagen employees will enter a decisive stage this week with the expected return to Germany of key witnesses.

Public prosecutors will be able to step up their questioning and are expected soon to call Mr José Ignacio López de Arriortúa, GM's former global purchasing director, and three associates who GM says systematically plundered industrial secrets from the US group and its European subsidiaries before defecting to VW in March.

The four former GM employees and most of their VW colleagues have been away during the traditional works

holiday period.

Mr Ferdinand Piëch, the German concern's chairman, will also press his initiative for background talks with Mr Jack Smith, president of GM, without prejudice to the legal case, VW said.

Mr Piëch, who made contact last week in what was seen as a damage limitation exercise, will telephone Mr Smith again today or tomorrow, VW said.

The VW chairman's public

attack on GM last week, hinting at a conspiracy to pervert the course of justice, was widely criticised as ill judged. It sparked appeals for "moderate language" from government ministers concerned at the damage being done to Germany's reputation.

Mr Günter Rexrodt, federal

economics minister, offered to act as a mediator between the

two sides after Mr Piëch's accusations of mud-slinging and his declaration that the case was a war in which the US concern wanted to destroy his company.

Meanwhile, Mr López denied in a statement further claims in the weekly magazine Der Spiegel that "secret" documents from a meeting in Germany on March 10, the day after he signed a contract to work with immediate effect for VW, were shipped at his request to his home in Uribe, northern Spain.

This conflicts in part with allegations last week from Adam Opel, the US group's German subsidiary, that local staff, unaware of his new job, fulfilled his requests for "internal" Opel data which were presented at the meeting to be sent to Spain.

According to Der Spiegel, Mr López had earlier asked for nine cartons to be sent to the Uribe address. The boxes, weighing 150kg, were reportedly sent on February 22.

In his statement at the weekend, issued on his behalf through VW, Mr López said he had asked "at an earlier" point for books, magazines and personal documents from his Opel office to be sent to Uribe.

According to evidence presented to prosecutors last week but released by VW at the weekend, a VW director claimed Mr López was subjected to emotional pressure from Mr Smith to try to keep him at the US group in March.

Mr Smith allegedly pleaded with him to stay, warning that GM would go bankrupt if he left, and that Mr Smith would be sacked.



A Bosnian Serb soldier rests with his Bugs Bunny mascot on top of a tank during a lull in fighting between Muslim and Serb forces in the north of the country

Three-year fight to win hearts of US public reaches climax

Nafta foes fight on the cheap

By Nancy Dunne and Lisa Bransten in Washington

IN California, labour leaders, environmentalists and the "Perotists" supporting Mr Ross Perot have signed a Declaration of War against the North American Free Trade Agreement. The site of the signing ceremony in Sacramento sent a warning to the city's congressman, Mr Boh Matsui, one of the leading proponents of Nafta in the US House of Representatives.

In Washington state, Nafta opponents wrote alternative menus for a dinner given for Mr Rufus Yerxa, the Deputy US Trade Representative. These featured the potential chemical content of the dishes if the free trade pact becomes a reality and allegedly toxic-laden Mexican produce flows into the US.

Anti-Nafta crusaders drove

California and Texas to mobilise opposition. Equipped as information centres, the vans cruised from town to town showing films and slides of the environmental degradation in Mexico.

With just less than \$200,000 a year in cash, a host of Nafta have worked for three years to mount a massive campaign to win the hearts and minds of the American public.

Nafta's US proponents - mostly the business community - are spending millions, bypassing the voters, to convince Congress to pass Nafta.

An NBC/Wall Street Journal poll released last week showed 31 per cent of all Americans in favour of the pact, a slight increase from previous surveys, while 29 per cent are opposed. However, 63 per cent believe Nafta will cost American jobs.

Although the Clinton administration weeks ago said it would appoint a "Nafta czar" to shepherd the pact through Congress, it has yet to announce it has found anyone to take on the task. By contrast, the opposition has an official "anti-Nafta czar" in place and making speeches around the country.

He is Mr Jim Jontz, a former Indiana congressman. Nafta foes have pooled their meagre resources to provide him with a campaign office, and field legislative directors. Forty-one states have been organised, and every two weeks the organisers hold long conference calls to plot strategies.

Nafta foes around the country say their protests have persuaded congressmen to back away from support of the deal. One California gubernatorial hopeful, Ms Kathleen Brown, has been stalked by demonstrators, who even follow her

to fundraising events.

According to Mr Craig Merriam, director of California's Fair Trade Campaign, Ms Brown has expressed doubt about the pact, along with the rest of the state's Democratic establishment. With a 9.5 per cent official unemployment rate and more job loss to come from the closure of military bases, opposition to the Nafta "is not a hard sell in California," he said.

With the expected conclusion this week of the talks over side agreements on labour and environment, both sides are preparing to crank up their lobbying efforts.

The opposition is not awaiting an announcement of the details, said Ms Lori Wallace, one of the opposition's leaders. The side pact will be "silly," she said, "it's the same old Bush Nafta with the supplemental used to create a lie."

Microsoft faces new investigation

By Louise Kehoe in San Francisco

THE anti-trust division of the US Justice Department is to review documents relating to the business practices of Microsoft, the world's largest computer software company, following the failure of the Federal Trade Commission to agree on the case after a three-and-a-half year investigation.

The move represents a setback for Microsoft because it had appeared that the FTC was hopelessly deadlocked on the issue and that the investigation might soon end. The company declined to comment, saying that it has not been officially notified of the review.

The review also moves the issue into the political arena and could test the Clinton administration's tougher stance on anti-trust enforcement. If the Justice Department finds evidence of anti-competitive activity, it will have to decide whether the public interest is served by taking action against one of the most successful high-technology companies in the US.

The Justice Department will review the thousands of documents amassed by the FTC. The commission has reached deadlock twice this year on whether to proceed against the software company, with the latest vote taken last month.

Two commissioners voted in favour and two against issuing a complaint. A fifth commissioner excused himself from the case, claiming a conflict of interests.

Microsoft's competitors allege that the company has attempted to raise false concerns among customers that its Windows program does not work properly with operating system programs sold by competitors. There are also complaints that Microsoft's program-licensing methods are designed to exclude competitors.

Microsoft, which has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing, last week accused rival Novell, a leading supplier of software

for PC networks, of attempting to stir up trouble for its own benefit. Throughout the FTC investigation "nothing has come up that causes us the slightest concern," said Mr Bill Gates, Microsoft chairman.

"The only issue that seems to be active... have been noted very heavily by Novell," he said. "We're disappointed by the way that Novell is pursuing this." Novell's goal, he charged, "is to get us to raise our prices... so that they can compete more effectively."

Novell, which has actively lobbied for anti-trust action against Microsoft, said that it had been contacted by the FTC and co-operated with the investigation.

E Europe 'should focus more on bilateral trade'

By David Dodwell, World Trade Editor

THE emergent economies of central and eastern Europe (CEE) and the European Free Trade Association countries should make less of their "EC-manias", and focus more instead on their increasingly important bilateral relationship, a leading trade economist argues in a paper published last week.

This relationship is likely to account for a quarter of their trade growth in the decade ahead, the economist says.

Mr Richard Baldwin, professor of economics at the Institut Universitaire des Hautes Etudes Internationales in Geneva, acknowledges that the sheer size and proximity of the European Community means it is likely to remain the main magnet for trade growth in the decade ahead for the EFTA and eastern European countries.

But he predicts that double-digit import growth in the eastern European economies could soon mean they

account for 20 per cent of EFTA's exports to the enlarged Europe - and vice versa.

For the CEEC, the sum of exports to EFTA countries and trade within the CEEC area is forecast eventually to account for about half of all their trade. He notes that the 100m people living in the CEEC area already have a combined GDP almost as large as the GDP of EFTA's 32m population.

As a result, he calls for an eastern enlargement of EFTA as being in the interests of both EFTA and CEEC exporters - and preferable to early EC entry, where he notes "the economic and political marginalisation implicit in the bilateral trade deals signed with western Europe".

He also warns that the explosive growth of the CEEC for western Europe's exporters cannot continue indefinitely without more openings for their exports. This is endorsed by the Amex bank in its latest review, which notes that a 25 per cent jump in CEEC exports to the EC (from \$31m to \$49m a

year) "would have little impact on the EC, accounting for just 0.2 per cent of EC imports".

Mr Baldwin predicts that EFTA exports to the CEEC have the potential to grow at more than 10 per cent a year "for decades". Assuming the CEEC can reach an average GDP per capita equivalent to 70 per cent of the EC average by the year 2020, he says their economies will grow at least twice as fast as those of the EC.

For EFTA countries, export growth to the region will be four times faster than export growth to the EC. "While the base on which this growth is taking place is fairly small compared to exports to western Europe, the rates are so much higher that the CEEC markets are estimated to be an important source of EFTA export growth."

* The Potential for trade between the countries of EFTA and Central and Eastern Europe by Richard Baldwin. Published by European Free Trade Association, Geneva. Tel: (4122) 749 1111.

'The Big Hustle' goes for gold in the 1996 Olympics

Atlanta is confident it is equal to the daunting task of staging the games, writes Barbara Harrison

THE extravaganza of the summer Olympics usually takes place in well-known cities, such as Barcelona, Seoul, Los Angeles, and Moscow, to name the last four. But in 1996 Atlanta, the ninth largest US city, will host the games and it sees the event as its ticket to international recognition.

Atlantans intend the games to bring not only world fame, but foreign investment and a physical transformation of the city. If these seem ambitious goals, take into account that the best-known characteristic of this city, sometimes derogatorily called "The Big Hustle", is self-promotion.

But after lengthy self-congratulation following its award of the games in 1990, Atlanta now seems awestruck by the scope of what it must

accomplish to mount the 16-day spectacle. Nonetheless, Mr Billy Payne, the irrepressibly exuberant Atlanta lawyer and native son who heads the private organising committee called the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (Acog), is brimming with confidence. Atlanta will stage the games, he says, "better than anyone ever has."

With respect to his committee's budget needs of \$1.5bn, Mr Payne's confidence seems well founded. The US television rights for the Atlanta games were sold on July 27 to NBC for a record \$458m. The final bid by the network came in unexpectedly high given that it recorded a loss of \$100m on the Barcelona Olympics, for which it had paid \$401m.

But with projections that this will be the largest audience in history for

any Olympics, NBC officials appear confident that they can make a profit. Although Mr Payne had once predicted he could get \$900m in TV rights, he said he was pleased with the agreement. Of the \$458m fee, 60 per cent, or \$274m, will go to Acog, with the remainder to the International Olympic Committee.

Atlanta, the American South's business capital, is only the second city in history - after Los Angeles in 1984 - to raise funds for the games entirely from the private sector. After television rights, the next biggest contributor to Acog's budget is corporate sponsorships. Unlike Los Angeles, which sold some 35 at about \$1m each, Acog wants 10-12 sponsors at \$20m a piece.

Surprisingly, in an economic climate that can hardly be called

robust, five companies have already signed on for the full \$40m, namely Nationsbank, Home Depot, Sara Lee, IBM, and Anheuser-Busch. John Hancock Financial Services has also signed on to promote its life insurance, but two other insurers are expected to fill the insurance category for a total of more than \$40m, according to Mr Payne.

He says several companies will share the telecommunications category and also bring in more than the normal sponsor fee. He claims negotiations with sponsors for cars and quick service restaurants are in the final details. Chrysler and McDonald's have been past sponsors of the US Olympic Committee, which has combined efforts with Acog for 1996 and will take 30 per cent of the sponsor fees.

Yet, while Acog's financial picture "looks extraordinarily favourable," according to Mr Payne, the bigger picture for Atlanta is not so rosy.

There are worries that Atlanta will not measure up to world standards on amenities. Although it does not have to build infrastructure, its downtown has little life for pedestrians and virtually closes after business hours. Visitors may also shudder at the poverty of the dilapidated neighbourhoods where the main Olympic venues will be located.

A \$500m facility is planned that includes walkways and parks. This is down from an original wish list of \$2.5bn, but beyond a request to the state for \$200m, and it is unclear where the rest of the money will come from. The city has pledged not to put itself in debt for the Olympics.

City improvements are the financial responsibility of local government. But Acog, which is handling Olympic venues, has been caught up in conflicts about the impact on the predominantly black neighbourhoods where its venues will be.

Acog's construction of a \$209m Olympic stadium, which will be the city's centrepiece for 1996, is, for example, opposed by residents who contend it will not deliver the promised economic development.

Meanwhile, true to the city's reputation for being pushy, the business community has latched on to the Olympics as a chance to win new investment. By the end of this month, the Chamber of Commerce will launch a three-year worldwide TV advertising campaign on CNN International to promote the city.

IN BRIEF

S African township clash kills 30

AT LEAST 30 people were killed in a South African township clash, overshadowing efforts to woo black and white conservatives back to democracy talks. Reuters reports from Johannesburg.

Residents and police said fighting began when hostel dwellers, most of them members of the Zulu-dominated Inkatha Freedom party, attacked nearby homes.

Street battles raged on for most of Saturday night, resulting in the death of at least 30. A family of four, including a five-month-old baby, perished.

Tembisa residents, most of them supporters of the African National Congress, said the attack was unprovoked.

The violence flared as the ANC and the government were making last-ditch efforts to get Inkatha, the KwaZulu homeland and the pro-apartheid Conservative party back to democracy talks.

More than 530 have died since negotiators confirmed the April 27, 1994 election date.

Warning of Caracas revolt

One of Venezuela's two leading candidates for the presidency warned at the weekend that the country was moving close to another military uprising, Joseph Mann reports from Caracas.

The statement, made by Mr Oswaldo Alvarez Paz, candidate for the Christian Democrat Copre party, came after two weeks of rising tensions in Venezuela caused by a rash of bombings in the capital, press reports of a stillborn military rebellion and new rumours of military discontent.

The most recent bombing took place on Saturday when an explosion damaged the headquarters of Fedecamaras, Venezuela's largest association of industry, commerce and finance. Incidents up to now have involved relatively small explosive devices.

The authorities have not identified the terrorists, but government officials say that unidentified "extremists" are attempting to create political instability and block national elections scheduled for next December.

Algeria signs gasoline deal

Bechtel of the US concluded over the weekend a contract worth \$306m (\$204.6m) with Sonatrach, the Algerian state hydrocarbons company, for the construction of part of the pipeline linking the Maghreb with Europe. Our Foreign Staff writes from London.

Israel blocks deportation

Israel's Supreme Court, after clearing Mr John Demjanjuk last week of being Nazi death camp guard "Ivan the Terrible", blocked his deportation to Ukraine yesterday while considering if he can stand trial for other war crimes. Reuters reports from Jerusalem.

A five-judge court acquitted Mr Demjanjuk. Yesterday a separate three-judge panel, acting on a complaint by two Israelis, gave government prosecutors seven days to show why Mr Demjanjuk should not be investigated anew based on allegations that he was a guard at other Nazi camps.

"The discussion will resume in 10 days. In seven days the attorney-general will submit his arguments, and he won't be deported until then," presiding judge Mr Shlomo Levin said.

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Barrage jolts PM's dream for Lebanon

MR Rafik al-Hariri, Lebanon's prime minister, yesterday itemised the physical damage to his country wrought by nearly seven days of heavy Israeli bombardment. 125 people were killed, of whom eight were Hizbollah fighters, 470 injured, 300,000 refugees, 10,000 houses in the south destroyed and 20,000 houses or apartments damaged.

The human cost of the barrage is self-evident. The economic costs are only now being tallied. The Health Ministry reckons it will cost at least \$25m for immediate humanitarian relief. Mr al-Hariri, who made his multi-billion dollar fortune in the construction industry, says it will cost around \$900m to rebuild the broken villages.

This alone, even given the \$500m pledged by Arab League states over the weekend to be split between reconstruction and strengthening the Lebanese army, will further burden a country that had just begun to heave itself towards reconstruction, after a 17-year civil

The battle to rebuild the nation goes on, writes Mark Nicholson

war which ruined swathes of Beirut, countless villages and itself left perhaps half a million homeless.

But the greatest immediate cost to Lebanon may be the damage Israel's bombardment has inflicted on confidence - the most vital ingredient in the prime minister's eight month old effort to put the country back on its feet. "Definitely this has jolted confidence in Lebanon," says Mr Tewfik Mishlawi, a local journalist, "and has undermined considerably Hariri's hopes and ambitions - it's a great blow to him."

The dream of restoring Beirut, and indeed Lebanon, as a magnet for Middle Eastern banking and trade, has rested squarely on the hope that other Lebanese will follow Mr al-Hariri's own fierce belief in his country, which the businessman-turned-politician is undertaking to back with millions of his own dollars, and bring themselves and their wealth back home.

This dream, enshrined in Mr al-Hariri's slowpiece \$13bn, ten-year, Horizon 2000 redevelopment project, required faith enough. For a country with GDP of only \$3.5bn and a budget deficit for the first five months of this year of \$300m, raising the sums for Horizon 2000 always looked ambitious. There has been some success: international donors have already pledged \$1.35bn towards specific projects and, as a sign that diaspora Lebanon

have begun to repatriate their wealth, private deposits in local banks have risen 13 per cent in the past five months.

But even before Israel's bombardment, some Lebanese investors and contractors were starting to grumble about the pace of progress. "It's really a lot slower than I expected," says Mr Jo Mehtar, one Lebanese engineer who returns from 15 years' exile in the US to set up a construction company to exploit the rebuilding programme. "I've achieved 20 per cent of what I thought I would."

Mr al-Hariri, however, remains undaunted. "Yes, the rebuilding programme has been delayed," he said in an interview. "By exactly one week." And he seeks to deflect the suggestion that the seven-day bombardment might have shattered confidence, by arguing that Lebanon's political resilience in the face of it demonstrated a new national unity. "If this had happened two years ago," he says, "the country would have fallen apart. Now we have a government where all the Lebanese are behind it."

Indeed, the manner in which the country united in opposition to the raids, and in its efforts to deal with the humanitarian crisis, surprised and impressed even local commentators. Christian and Moslem-owned news media stood firmly behind the government throughout the crisis, while Christian activists raised money for the Moslem refugees. "There is a great sense of unity," says Mr Mishlawi, "in contrast to the 1982 Israeli invasion."

This unity, however, is a modest, albeit necessary, starting point for Lebanon's mammoth remaining task. And the past eight days have spotlighted more starkly than ever the extent to which success in rebuilding the country will depend ultimately on the broader success of Middle East peace talks.

Hizbollah's attacks into Israel, the pretext for Israel's resulting collective punishment of the south, occurred outside the control of Lebanon's government. It also took days of talks in Damascus, under US pressure, between Iran and Syria, Hizbollah's sponsors, to win an "understanding" that there would be no further rocket attacks into Israel. "All we have seen in the last few days is a proxy war between Israel and Syria," says one political analyst, "fighting to the last Lebanese."

Mr al-Hariri acknowledges that his dream for Lebanon depends finally on reaching a durable Middle East peace. But he refuses to believe that in its absence investors will fight shy of the country. "There are people also who take risks," he says. "And I have a lot of friends - don't forget my background."

Agreement to end bombardment may help revive Mideast peace process

Israel's hopes rise after ceasefire deal

By Julian O'Zanne in Jerusalem

ISRAEL'S government was quick yesterday to claim success for its seven-day bombardment of southern Lebanon aimed at curbing rocket attacks by Arab guerrillas against the country's northern towns.

However, as Israel continued withdrawing tanks and troops from its self-styled security zone in southern Lebanon after a US-arranged ceasefire at the weekend, Israeli politicians and military officials were left wondering how solid any gains will be in the long term.

Despite severe international condemnation and the threats posed to the already stalled Middle East peace process by Israel's devastating onslaught against Lebanese civilians, optimistic Israeli politicians and analysts believe they can turn the crisis into an opportunity.

Much depends on the details of the secret deal arranged by Mr Warren Christopher, US secretary of state, and the reactions of Arab states to Israel's

latest military action during Mr Christopher's current visit to the region.

For its part, Israel believes the unwritten agreement involving Syria, Lebanon and Israel can pave the way to a more permanent and durable solution in the Middle East.

What is known about the deal is that Israel has ceased its offensive in return for vague assurances that Syria will rein in the pro-Iranian Hizbollah guerrillas and Lebanon will increasingly restrict the Islamic militia - demonstrated yesterday as the Lebanese army mounted increased checkpoints on roads into the south, stopping cars carrying armed Hizbollah.

But the agreement does not provide for the disarming of Hizbollah or an end to their attacks against Israeli troops and their proxies in the security zone and so leaves the underlying security issues unresolved.

In the short term Israel claims it has stopped Katyusha rocket attacks from Hizbollah and has committed the governments of Lebanon and Syria to

restrict Hizbollah's ability to launch further attacks.

For their part, Lebanon and Syria have halted a military onslaught that threatened to destabilise Lebanon and derail the considerable gains made by the nine-month-old Lebanese government towards a restoration of law and order, security and economic rehabilitation.

It is also immediately clear that the hand of President Hafez al-Assad of Syria has been strengthened. Last week US President Bill Clinton praised "Syrian restraint" during the Israeli operation and even Israeli leaders have softened to the man who has been their enemy for more than a quarter of a century.

Gen Ehud Barak, chief of staff, said: "President Assad is a tough and bitter rival but we can't ignore the fact that he is a very serious, responsible and highly reliable leader."

The new-found Israeli praise for Mr Assad has fuelled speculation that the ceasefire agreement could have deeper aims than merely stopping the latest conflict and be the start of a broader agreement capable of



Israeli troops, deployed in civil defence and rescue operations, celebrate the ceasefire

reviving the moribund Middle East peace process. Certainly this is Israel's hope.

"This is a deal which is the first of its kind between the triangle of Israel, Syria and Lebanon," said Mr Eytan Manor, foreign ministry spokesman. "If it holds, it can create an atmosphere of wheeling and dealing between the three sides which could break the deadlock in the talks."

But the deeper details of the deal remain obscure. Israeli commentators believe Mr Assad has extracted a price for

his "restraint" which involves, as a minimum, a US promise to consider favourably removing Syria from the blacklist of countries which support terrorism - opening the way to US finance and investment.

After 20 months of talks the peace process remains deadlocked and each side accuses the other of stalling. Israel says Mr Christopher will focus his visit on how to unblock this deadlock and use the unwritten ceasefire agreement as a springboard to speed up Syria-Lebanon-Israeli talks.

Israel hopes that Mr Christopher will have emerged with enhanced status by chalking up his first success as a peace broker in the Middle East and that he will step up US involvement in the peace process, make bolder initiatives and bring all sides closer to an agreement.

Mr Yossi Beilin, deputy foreign minister, said the ceasefire agreement deal should be conducive to peace because Mr Christopher had opened new channels of communication between leaders in the region.

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'Security zone' withdrawal seen as way to peace

By Mark Nicholson in Beirut

If Israel's aim was to destroy Hizbollah with its seven-day bombardment, then it failed, according to Mr Rafik al-Hariri, Lebanon's prime minister. He said the only way to end any threat from the pro-Iranian group was for Israel to commit itself to withdraw from its self-declared "security zone" in south Lebanon.

After such a commitment, and even before actual withdrawal, Lebanon and Israel could set up a joint security committee for the south and address the question of security in north Israel, Mr al-Hariri said.

In an interview with the FT, he said: "The Israelis give us two options," adding: "Either we disarm Hizbollah and risk entering into a civil war because Israel is still occupying the country, or Israel destroys our country. But there is a third option - that they commit to withdraw from south Lebanon, then there will be no need for resistance against them."

Mr al-Hariri's remarks follow government statements that it could not act against Hizbollah while the group had the legitimising "political cover" of Israel's presence in the 15km "security zone" in south Lebanon. Neither, officials said, could the govern-

ment publicly oppose any acts of resistance against Israeli targets within that zone.

The government is aware it must do nothing to risk reigniting the sectarian fighting that consumed the country in its 17-year civil war. But officials understand the threat Hizbollah poses both to the Middle East peace process and, potentially also, to the newly united Lebanese government itself.

The government believes, however, that a strengthened Lebanese army could contain any threat of attacks against northern Israel, but only if the Israelis commit themselves to withdraw.

Under the ceasefire "understanding" that silenced Israeli guns on Saturday, Hizbollah has apparently undertaken to cease Katyusha rocket attacks into Israeli territory - the pretext for Israel's bombardment. Hizbollah will also be restrained by the knowledge that further attacks would bring a powerful Israeli reprisal which could, in turn, draw considerable hostility against them from the thousands of refugees now streaming back to their battered villages.

Syria, which has 35,000 troops in Lebanon, has clearly been decisive in obtaining the ceasefire "understanding", under what appears to have been considerable US pressure.

NEWS: THE ERM CRISIS

Newspapers wage a war of words

By Christopher Parkes in Frankfurt, John Riddling in Paris and agencies

PARIS is a mistress which Bonn can no longer afford to keep, the Die Welt am Sonntag newspaper suggested yesterday. The relationship endangered the stability of the German currency, it claimed.

In a signed editorial under the headline "Ritual", the conservative Hamburg-based Sunday newspaper warned Chancellor Helmut Kohl to resist any appeals from France for renewed solidarity or an acceleration towards a mini-monetary union centred on the franc and D-Mark.

"Acceptance of such or similar wishes from Paris by the chancellor would attack the Bundesbank from the rear," it said. The German central bank well knew that a second currency union within five years would mean the end of the D-Mark's stability.

In France, however, the press pointed the finger of blame for the latest ERM crisis at Germany - particularly the Bundesbank - and at "Anglo-Saxon" speculators. The targets reflect a fraying of relations with France's closest ally and a belief that France differs from the UK and the US in its economic principles.

The quality French newspapers were careful to draw the distinction between the German political and monetary authorities, acknowledging it was the decision by the Bundesbank not to cut its principal interest rate last week which brought about the ERM's most serious crisis.

"The members of the Bundesbank council are acting like provincial managers," said Le Figaro. "The EMS is built around the D-Mark, those who guard the key currency also have international responsibilities."

In the popular press, the distinction between Bonn and the Bundesbank is blurred and the criticism becomes sharper. "By putting the interests of 'greater Germany' first, the Bonn government has isolated itself," says Le Quotidien, the right-

wing daily. "It has already lost its friends and tomorrow the consequences of this Prussian obstinacy may seriously jeopardise its own prosperity."

Die Welt am Sonntag, meanwhile, said the grounds for Mr Jacques Delors' recent proclamation that the French franc could soon replace the D-Mark as the lead currency in the European monetary system could only be found by using psychiatric methodology.

The editorial's author, Mr Harald Hotz, an old Brussels

hand, referred to the "trauma" in the early 1980s when Mr Delors, now president of the European Community and then French finance minister, sought three franc devaluations within 18 months.

In Italy, a front-page editorial in Corriere della Sera said Germany had in effect given up its European leadership role when the Bundesbank put national interests before those of the EC and refused to cut its discount rate.

"The leadership of a system

implies that a country is willing and able to take account of the interests of member states and subordinate its national interests to these."

In contrast, many German editorials underlined the enduring popular obsession in the country with monetary stability - a condition in which the Bundesbank consistently enjoys more popular credibility than the government or European union.

The Sunday edition of the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

Politicians usurp the technocrats

By Lionel Barber in Brussels

THERE was a sense of history unfolding in Brussels yesterday afternoon as finance ministers trooped into offices near the empty shell of the Berlaymont, former headquarters of the European Commission.

The presence of the politicians - who were noticeably absent nine months ago when sterling and the lira crashed out of the exchange rate mechanism - showed that this time everyone grasped an essential truth. The latest crisis was too important to leave to the technocrats alone.

At stake was the future of European monetary co-operation based on a Franco-German axis, and the more elusive goal of European monetary union.

On Saturday, after more than six hours of deliberations, the technocrats of the EC monetary committee had been unable to reach agreement on a plan to save the ERM.

The impasse underlined unresolved tensions between France and Germany over the Bundesbank's refusal to lower short-term interest rates.

Germany called for both the monetary committee and ministers' meetings in the hope that a decisive action plan could be endorsed at the highest level among the 12 member states, before financial markets reopened today.

The EC monetary committee - comprised of senior central and Treasury officials - discussed several options for defusing the ERM crisis. But according to informed sources, officials could only agree to the principle that the European monetary system and its exchange rate grid had to be preserved.

European monetary officials said France's determination to resist a devaluation of the franc had increased pressure on the Bundesbank to lower short-term rates after its largely technical move on Thursday.

The broader French strategy seemed aimed at forcing Bonn to make a choice: either to break publicly with its traditional ally in Paris, or to twist arms at the central bank to lower the key discount rate.

Germany's decision to call the emergency meetings reflected these conflicting political pressures. But it also pointed to Bundesbank worries that unlimited intervention on behalf of the French franc risked an inflationary bleeding of Germany's money supply, as during last September's ERM crisis which led to the forced exit of sterling and the lira.

The EC monetary committee

discussed all available options for easing the crisis. All contained significant drawbacks and are believed to include:

- A suspension of the ERM for a limited period. The attraction of an "extended vacation" for the EMS currencies from the ERM grid was that it would prevent France losing face; it would introduce much-needed flexibility into the system; and it could be defended as the best chance of restoring economic growth in the EC through lower interest rates.

But allowing currencies to float would jeopardise the single market and would amount to a grievous blow to the Maastricht treaty's goal of European monetary union by the end of the century.

□ The forced exit of several currencies from the ERM, including the franc. This might make practical sense, as it would almost certainly allow France and Spain to lower interest rates. But it would encourage talk of a "two-tier" ERM, undermining France's 10-year policy of maintaining parity with the D-Mark.

□ A deal involving a devaluation of the franc in return for a cut in the German discount rate. This would be a significant climbdown for the Bundesbank, but analysts recalled that a similar political trade-off last September involving a cut in German rates in return for a devaluation of the lira failed to prevent the Black Wednesday crisis.

□ A widening of the fluctuation bands within the ERM beyond their current level of 2.25 per cent (excluding the Spanish peseta and Portuguese escudo).

This would avoid an official devaluation of the franc but would amount to a de facto depreciation, which was counter to the franc fort policy. It might also be dismissed as a ruse to buy time.

As ministers and officials laboured yesterday to come up with a convincing deal it was clear the outcome would have profound political and economic repercussions for the European Community.

If the Bundesbank agreed to a discount rate cut, this would amount to a humiliating public U-turn. How such a retreat would play before the German public - and the German constitutional court which is currently reviewing the Maastricht treaty - was another matter.

On the other hand, a French devaluation and/or suspension of the ERM would be viewed as a devastating blow to European monetary co-operation.

Swimming against economic tide

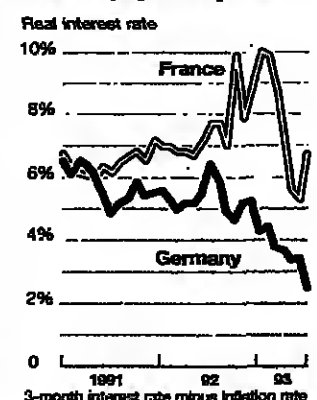
AMID the turmoil and confusion of the past few days, one fact emerges ever starker: politics and diplomacy can no more resist the logic of international economic forces than King Canute could turn back an incoming tide, writes Edward Balls.

But the willingness of Europe's leaders to blame "speculators" for the crisis suggests the politicians themselves have yet to take this fact on board.

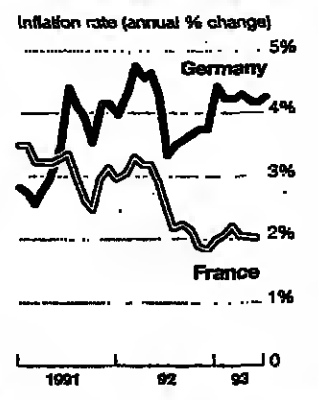
Yesterday's comments from Mr Mogens Lykette, Danish finance minister, were typical. "The government and the central bank is in total agreement that we, under no circumstances, will let those who speculate against the crown win," he said in a newspaper interview. "My opinion is that we can resist the speculators indefinitely."

The EC's central bank governs

France pays the price...



...for Germany's inflation



nor are also inclined to blame the markets. "In an environment of full freedom of capital movements," they wrote in April, "massive speculative exchange rate pressures may arise even in a situation when

central parities are backed up by sound and stable domestic economic conditions."

But Europe's problem is not excessive speculation. The international investors are selling the French franc, the

Bank may have fuelled inflationary flames

By Emma Tucker, Economics Staff

THE Bundesbank's decision to leave its discount rate unchanged last week was justified on the grounds that domestic inflation needed to be kept under control. But by refusing to ease monetary policy, the German central bank may have created a new inflationary problem for itself.

The unprecedented levels of intervention by the bank to prop up the franc - which slipped to its floor in the exchange rate mechanism after the decision - mean that the German authorities now face a sharp jump in the money supply, which could lead to higher inflation in the long term.

An estimated DM50bn (\$19.4bn) was spent by the bank on Friday alone, money that was not previously in circulation. The expectation that the extra D-Marks in the economy will further expand Ger-

many's already fast-growing money supply is more acute now than it was last autumn.

The estimated DM65bn of intervention over two days during this crisis compares with DM90bn used over two months at the end of last summer. As a result German M3 growth will creep upwards, as it did then, although the Bundesbank will try to "sterilise" the impact of extra liquidity.

Sterilisation occurs when monetary authorities offset extra domestic liquidity created through foreign exchange operations by withdrawing liquidity from the system, usually by issuing government debt. According to Mr Thomas Mayer of Goldman Sachs, the merchant bank no lasting impact on the domestic economy results from intervention, provided it is sterilised at some stage.

The Bundesbank successfully sterilised the impact of its intervention on the foreign

exchanges in August and September, although M3 growth was boosted for several months.

So far the bank has been slow to mop up the excess liquidity, worried that to do so too promptly would send the wrong signal to foreign exchange markets. According to Ms Alison Cottrell, international economist at Midland Global Markets, swift sterilisation may have been interpreted by foreign exchange dealers as a sign that the Bundesbank was anticipating further intervention.

Ms Cottrell believes the Bundesbank will act to tighten liquidity some time in the near future. In the meantime, the domestic German economy is so depressed that while the Bundesbank can wave goodbye to its M3 targets, it does not have to worry about the inflationary pressures of the vast amounts of D-Marks flooding the system.



MR Kenneth Clarke, Britain's chancellor of the exchequer (pictured above on arrival in Brussels), was seeking yesterday to play the honest broker between the warring factions in continental Europe as finance ministers met, writes Peter Marsh in Brussels.

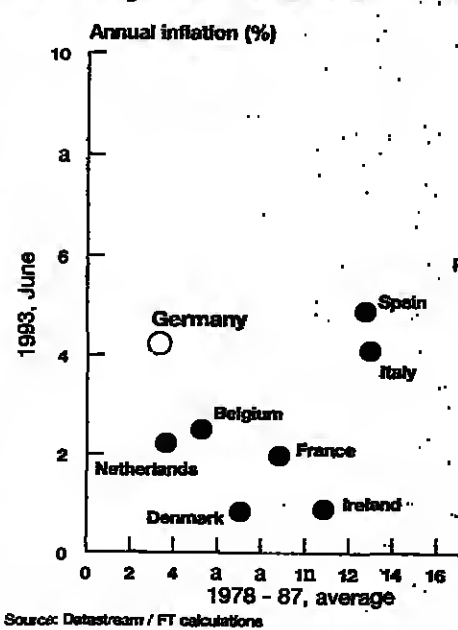
There were suggestions in the Belgian capital that he would use the UK experience to offer a constructive way out of the exchange rate mechanism impasse, perhaps by suggesting that other countries follow Britain's lead and

allow currencies to float outside the system, so allowing lower interest rates. There have been signs of an upturn in the UK economy since Britain left the mechanism last September.

However, the chancellor was thought to be keen not to alienate Germany and France. He said the UK would be "helpful" and wanted "a sensible solution" that would assist European recovery.

Mr Clarke faces domestic pressure to lower base rates, held at 6 per cent since January.

Germany: still the ERM anchor?



Source: Datastream / FT calculations

D-Mark remains the investors' choice

THE FRANC FORT policy has become the victim of its own success. The European exchange rate mechanism was supposed to be the route to low inflation. But the irony of last week's turmoil was that the currencies the markets were selling - the French franc, the Danish krone and the Belgian franc - were under pressure because their inflation rates are currently too low. If any country deserves to be punished for veering off the low inflation road, it is Germany and not France. So why should French virtue be so badly rewarded?

The reason is that the D-Mark remains, at least for now, the ERM's anchor currency. And being the anchor of a system of semi-fixed exchange rates, such as the ERM, means setting the interest rate floor. The ERM's current problem is that this floor, while appropriate for inflation-troubled Germany, means dangerously and unsustainably

high real interest rates for the low inflation countries. But hold on: theory suggests that the anchor ought to be the country which, on average, has the lowest inflation rate. Because inflation is expected to erode the anchor currency's value less than the other currencies, investors will accept a lower return for holding it.

The first chart shows why the D-Mark was the clear anchor for the system during the first decade of the ERM's existence. During the years 1978-87 German inflation was by far the lowest of the member countries at an average of 3.2 per cent a year. Consumer prices in France rose more than twice as fast over the period, with an average annual inflation of 8.5 per cent.

Three years after German reunification, however, this argument no longer seems to apply. In June 1993 German inflation stood at 4.3 per cent: the highest of all the countries

in the ERM's northern "core". If low inflation is the prime qualification for the anchor, currency then, by rights, Denmark and Ireland should now share the honour.

Yet the Danish and Irish finance ministers have made no such claims, while the French finance minister, who suggested the franc could be the new ERM anchor, has been punished by the markets for what now seems a piece of grand blarney. Mr Theo Waigel, Germany's finance minister, this weekend reaffirmed the D-Mark's continuing and vital role as the ERM anchor.

How can Mr Waigel still make this claim? The explanation is that a country's long-term inflation prospects are what matter to investors when they are evaluating a currency's relative risk and return. The right-hand chart measures the markets' long-term predictions for inflation in all of the ERM countries as implied by the yield on long-term

government bonds. It is easy to see why Germany was judged by far the best low inflation bet during the first decade of the ERM. But, despite Germany's current problems, the Bundesbank's reputation for delivering low inflation remains intact. Only the Netherlands has a marginally lower long-term bond yield than Germany: 6.4 per cent compared with 6.6 per cent.

So, for all Germany's current difficulties, investors do not think that future German inflation will remain higher than in other ERM countries. Whether the D-Mark will remain the anchor currency will depend on whether the Bundesbank's high interest rate policy succeeds in bringing German inflation under control. If that is, there is still an ERM for it to anchor.

Stephanie Flanders and Edward Balls

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS: PRODUCTION AND EMPLOYMENT

Yearly data for retail sales volume and industrial production plus all data for the vacancy rate indicator are in index form with 1985=100. Quarterly and monthly data for retail sales and industrial production show the percentage change over the corresponding period in the previous year, and are positive unless otherwise stated. The unemployment rate is shown as a percentage of the total labour force. Figures for the composite leading indicator are end-period values.

UNITED STATES					JAPAN					GERMANY					FRANCE					ITALY					UNITED KINGDOM				
Retail sales volume	Industrial production	Unemployment rate	Vacancy rate	Composite leading indicator	Retail sales volume	Industrial production	Unemployment rate	Vacancy rate	Composite leading indicator	Retail sales volume	Industrial production	Unemployment rate	Vacancy rate	Composite leading indicator	Retail sales volume	Industrial production	Unemployment rate	Vacancy rate	Composite leading indicator	Retail sales volume	Industrial production	Unemployment rate	Vacancy rate	Composite leading indicator	Retail sales volume	Industrial production	Unemployment rate	Vacancy rate	Composite leading indicator
1985	100.0	100.0	7.1	100.0	102.2	100.0	100.0	2.6	100.0	96.2	100.0	100.0	7.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	8.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1986	105.5	100.8	6.9	98.0	107.0	106.5	99.7	2.8	94.3	106.3	103.4	102.2	5.4	136.4	106.0	102.4	10.1	10.4	107.2	108.2	108.8	104.1	10.4	100.8	104.1	10.2	116.1	104.9	
1987	108.4	108.0	8.1	105.5	108.5	113.8	103.1	2.9	106.3	115.4	107.4	102.5	6.2	148.4	106.1	104.5	10.3	10.5	117.7	108.8	112.1	106.8	10.9	110.0	108.0	11.2	116.1	104.9	
1988	110.7	110.7	8.6	106.1	112.8	122.8	112.9	2.5	136.9	122.5	110.5	108.3	5.2	164.8	112.2	109.5	11.3	9.4	151.1	113.5	116.9	118.7	10.8	111.8	108.5	8.8	144.3	107.2	
1989	114.6	112.4	5.2	99.3	111.0	132.8	108.1	2.2	147.0	126.0	114.1	111.4	5.8	219.5	115.1	109.5	11.3	9.4	151.1	113.5	116.9	118.7	10.8	111.8	108.5	8.8	144.3	107.2	
1990	115.0	112.4	5.4	64.5	108.8	142.0	125.5	2.1	148.8	123.9	123.5	117.2	4.9	261.0	115.8	110.1	12.9	8.9	166.0	108.3	114.3	116.0	10.3	112.3	108.5	7.2	124.7	104.8	
1991	122.7	110.2	8.7	62.0	112.3	145.0	128.4	2.1	144.2	122.3	130.5	120.7	4.4	270.7	113.1	109.7	113.2	8.5	130.0	109.6	110.8	115.4	8.5	115.2	108.5	6.8	98.1	102.8	
1992	117.7	112.8	7.3	60.5	117.5	140.3	126.0	2.2	124.2	122.2	127.7	119.1	4.8	259.8	107.0	106.8	113.1	10.4	110.8	107.4	116.3	115.8	8.8	111.8	108.5	6.8	70.4	110.5	
2nd qtr.1992	2.8	2.8	7.4	60.5	113.8	-3.5	-6.2	2.1	127.1	121.4	-4.5	-1.0	4.7	271.4	112.0	8.3	-0.7	10.3	106.4	106.8	8.3	-0.7	10.3	106.4	106.8	1.3	-0.2	9.7	
3rd qtr.1992	4.0	1.7	7.5	60.1	114.6	-3.8	-6.2	2.2	121.1	121.9	-2.0	-1.3	4.8	258.7	109.5	2.8	-2.1	10.1	111.8	108.2	2.8	-2.1	10.1	111.8	108.2	0.8	-0.3	10.1	
4th qtr.1992	7.0	3.2	7.2	51.8	117.5	-5.0	-7.7	2.3	115.3	122.2	1.0	-4.6	5.1	233.7	107.0	-1.4	-2.3	10.7	102.3	107.4	2.7	-3.8	9.3	111.8	108.5	0.8	-0.3	10.1	
1st qtr.1993	4.4	3.3	6.9	62.2	118.5	-5.1	-7.7	2.3	115.3	122.2	-4.2	-4.8	5.5	206.8	107.2	-0.1	-3.5	11.0	107.1	105.3	2.7	-3.8	9.3	111.8	108.5	0.8	-0.3	10.1	
2nd qtr.1993	3.7	3.7	6.7	63.7		-4.5								206.8															
June 1992	2.3	1.5	7.8	60.7	113.8	-6.5	-3.8	2.1	126.2	121.4	-6.4	-3.4	4.7	267.4	112.0	-1.8	0.3	10.4	115.9	109.8	-4.7	-3.8	n.a.	112.8	108.5	0.8	-0.2	9.8	
July	3.0	2.2	7.5	59.9	114.0	-1.0	-8.4	2.2	122.7	121.2	-4.4	-2.2	4.8	262.8	111.4	-2.8	-0.8	10.4	112.0	108.5	-4.7	-3.8	n.a.	112.8	108.5	0.8	-0.2	9.8	
August	4.4	1.8	7.5	61.2	114.0	-4.8	-6.1	2.2	119.5	121.4	-1.6	-0.7	4.8	280.3	110.8	-0.3	-0.8	10.4	111.7	108.3	1.3	-1.8	n.a.	111.9	108.5	1.0	1.0	10.7	
September	4.8	0.9	7.4	59.3	114.5	-5.4	-4.2	2.2	121.1	121.9	0.1	-1.0	4.8	252.2	109.8	1.9	0.5	10.5	107.9	108.7	5.1	-1.8	n.a.	111.8	108.5	1.0	1.0	10.7	
October	8.8	2.3	7.3	60.8	115.2	-1.8	-6.7	2.3	118.8	122.1	-2.1	-3.5	5.0	243.4	108.4	0.1	0.4	10.5	106.9	108.5	5.1	-1.8	n.a.	111.8	108.5	1.0	1.0	10.7	
November	8.8	2.3	7.3	60.8	115.2	-1.8	-6.7	2.3	118.8	122.1	-2.1	-3.5	5.0	243.4	108.4	0.1	0.4	10.5	106.9	108.5	5.1	-1.8	n.a.	111.8	108.5	1.0	1.0	10.7	
December	7.7	4.0	7.2	62.3	117.5	-7.4	-7.8	2.4	110.6	122.0	-0.5	-5.8	5.1	232.8	107.4	-2.2	-3.3	10.7	102.5	108.0				111.8	108.5	1.0	1.0	10.7	
January	4.6	1.6	7.0	60.6	116.4	-5.6	-7.6	2.4	110.6	122.0	-0.5	-5.8	5.1	232.8	107.4	-2.2	-3.3	10.7	102.5	108.0				111.8	108.5	1.0	1.0	10.7	
February	2.8	4.4	8.8	63.5	118.3	-9.9	-5.8	2.3	111.1	122.9	-7.4	-8.1	5.4	211.4	106.7	-0.1	-5.2	10.8	97.1	108.7	11.0	-3.9	n.a.	112.1	108.5	2.9	1.6	10.6	
March	2.8	4.4	8.8	63.5	118.3	-9.9	-5.8	2.3	111.1	122.9	-7.4	-8.1	5.4	211.4	106.7	-0.1	-5.2	10.8	97.1	108.7	11.0	-3.9	n.a.	112.1	108.5	2.9	1.6	10.6	
April	3.9	3.8	8.9	62.8	117.8	-8.2	-2.0	2.3	123.1	125.2	-1.1	-8.5	5.7	208.4	107.2	4.1	-2.8	11.2	96.5	103.3	-4.5	-4.7	n.a.	111.5	108.5	4.0	1.5	10.7	
May	3.4	3.4	8.8	65.0	118.1	-4.2	2.5	102.0	126.5		-1.8	-3.0	5.8	209.2	107.8	0.8	-5.1	11.4	96.4	108.0				114.5	108.5	4.0	1.5	10.7	
June	3.8	3.8	8.6	65.1	118.7	-4.2	2.5	102.1	126.4		-3.9	-7.6	5.9	205.2	109.3	-3.7	-3.4	11.5	88.6	108.6				114.5	108.5	2.6	3.8	10.4	
July	3.8	3.8	8.6	65.1	118.7	-4.2	2.5	102.1	126.4		-3.9	-7.6	5.9	205.2	109.3	-3.7	-3.4	11.5	88.6	108.6				114.5	108.5	2.6	3.8	10.4	

Transition to democracy likely to be postponed again in Nigeria

Babangida set to delay handover

By Paul Adams in Lagos

NIGERIA'S President Ibrahim Babangida looks set to remain in office beyond the promised August 27 handover to civilian rule.

At a weekend meeting in Abuja, the federal capital, with officials of the country's two political parties it was decided that plans to re-run presidential elections by that date were not feasible, and a new interim government would be established.

Although no official announcement has been made, the decision seems likely to prolong the transition to

democracy for the fourth time in three years.

It will also extend a period of strained international relations and means further delay in efforts to reschedule the country's external debt of \$33bn (£22.1bn) and resolve its balance of payments crisis.

Western governments have already imposed visa restrictions and reduced military links with the Nigerian government in response to the announcement of Juna's presidential poll.

At the Abuja meeting the two army-created political parties agreed to take part in an interim government which will

replace the Transitional Council, a group of civilians appointed by the president to assist in the handover to democratic rule due on August 27. They will form a joint committee with some of Gen Babangida's senior military personnel, including the intelligence chief Brigadier-General Halli Akilu, Lt-Gen Aliyu Mohammed, the head of national security, and Brig John Shagaya, an influential field commander in the north.

"We should... see the interim government as a consensus arrangement for concluding the transitional agenda of this administration, which

was disrupted by the imperative need to nullify the June 12 presidential elections," Gen Babangida said.

Details of the new government, including its tenure, will be worked out by Vice-President Augustus Abacha, officials of the two parties and Mr Ernest Shonekan, who heads a transitional council installed in January and responsible for day-to-day administration.

Significantly, Gen Babangida did not reaffirm his previous commitment to step down on August 27. "We are still in an endless transition to civil rule," commented House of Representatives member Tok-

umbo Afikuyomi. "It's like Jesus Christ's second coming. Promised for so long but no-one except the Lord knows when it will happen."

The president's decision could lead to a split in the Social Democratic party (SDP) between those who are co-opted in the coalition and the supporters of Mr Moshood Abiola, the successful candidate in the June elections.

Mr Abiola has so far rejected the interim government and claimed that only he has any mandate to rule in Nigeria. He enjoys strong popular support in Lagos and most of southern Nigeria.

Exxon accused over explosion in Hong Kong

By Simon Davies in Hong Kong

EXXON of the US and China Light and Power, the Hong Kong utility company, have been accused of withholding crucial information from a Hong Kong government investigation into an explosion at their jointly-owned Castle Peak power station. The allegations were made in a US\$125m (£83.8m) legal action filed in Texas.

They are alleged to have removed "vital evidence from the scene of the explosion" and to have held back a detailed internal report which had suggested "inadequate and improper maintenance and training" at the plant.

The explosion of two hydrogen cylinders at the plant last August killed two workers. A coroner's verdict of accidental death was given, but the latest allegations could lead to a reopening of the inquiry.

Mr John Leigh, CLP's company secretary, said yesterday in an official statement that the allegations were "without merit". However, he said the Castle Peak Power Company (Capco), which is 60 per cent owned by Exxon and 40 per cent by CLP, intended to con-

sult the attorney general. The lawsuit has been filed in Alice, Texas, by Mr Michael Ford, a Hong Kong-based barrister who represented Capco at the coroner's inquest.

Mr Ford is suing Capco and five Exxon group companies, claiming damage to his reputation, loss of income and emotional distress after he was dismissed during the inquest. If successful, this could trigger further legal action by the widows of the two men who died in the accident.

Mr Ford alleges he was instructed to hold back relevant material from the inquest. After refusing to comply he was dismissed in such a manner as to "create the impression that the plaintiff had been removed because of incompetence, dishonesty or unethical behaviour".

CLP has responded by seeking an injunction in Hong Kong to prevent Mr Ford disclosing confidential information obtained while he was representing the company.

China Light and Power is the monopoly supplier of electricity to Kowloon and the New Territories of Hong Kong. Exxon owns 60 per cent of the company's four power stations in the colony.

Bachelor party no fun for Thai MPs

By Victor Mallat in Bangkok

THE THAI law forbidding prostitution is probably the least-enforced act in the world. But even in Bangkok it is unusual for 30 government members of parliament to be caught on the same night consorting with women of doubtful virtue - especially during an official campaign against the sex trade.

In the last two days the Thai press has reported with relish on an end-of-term "bachelor" party held for MPs from the New Aspiration party in Bangkok's Emerald Hotel last Wednesday. The host was Mr Boonchai Tritthong, a deputy finance minister and deputy NAP leader.

The revelations have been denied by some of the embarrassed MPs - who described the girls variously as "artists", "singers" and "actresses" - but they have hardly stunned the nation.

Gen Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, the NAP leader who was not at the party, described the women as singers rather than prostitutes, but did nothing to dispel the notion that it was normal for MPs to cavort with prostitutes. "Had they been prostitutes, the party would have been held secretly," he said.

The publicity is particularly embarrassing for the five-party coalition government because it has campaigned against prostitution, although the emphasis has been on protecting children used in the trade.

Earlier this month, the government banned the latest edition of Longman's Dictionary of English Language and Culture, published by Pearson, owner of the Financial Times, because it described Bangkok as being known for both its Buddhist temples and its prostitutes.

Thai women's organisations have pointed out that it is useless for the government to try to improve the country's tarnished image if government officials are themselves involved in prostitution.

Leopard skin king must walk a tightrope

Heavy is Londoner's crown, say Leslie Crawford and Joel Kibazo

THE LEOPARD skin had definitely seen better days. Now, splashed under the throne of the future king of Buganda, the tired carcass was stubbornly refusing to bare its fangs.

As the crown prince approached, hoisted on the shoulders of his subjects, the court attendants abandoned their struggle with the leopard's jaws and rushed to prostrate themselves before Ronald Mutebi II, formerly of Shoreditch, London, who on Saturday was crowned the 36th Kabaka (king) of Buganda.

For a one-time 'double-glazing salesman who lived most of his life in Britain, Ronnie was bearing up well to the rituals of his ancient African kingdom. After visiting his father's mummified umbilical cord, and leading his army into battle before dawn, the Kabaka was bathed in the seclusion of a hut of poppy seeds.

Then, propelled by thousands of delirious subjects, Ronnie was carried up the slopes of Buddo hill to a spot marked by the gnarled roots of a sacred tree, where his ancestors had been crowned for the past 600 years.

As Queen Elizabeth II could have warned him, the duties of a monarch can be onerous. So, too, were the offerings now hoisted upon the Kabaka under the sweltering morning sun. Over his white tunic went four togas made of bark cloth. A cow hide on his back would ensure food for his people. A leopard skin on his chest would give him valour. Two spears and a shield for those troublesome little wars and a calabash of water to quench his thirst.

The royal paraphernalia was topped by a sequined crown, which appeared to double as a fly-whisk. At 9.55am, Ronnie rose to beat a sonorous royal drum. The crowd went wild.

His reign had begun. The 4m Baganda, Uganda's largest tribe, are celebrating the restoration of their monarchy after a 27-year ban as the event of the century.

Ronnie's father, Muteesa II, who was also independent Uganda's first president, was forced into exile in 1966 by Milton Obote, the ambitious prime minister who became Uganda's uncrowned dictator. Muteesa II, known as King Freddie to his friends, died in alcoholic penury in Britain three years later.

"Since then," says Wasswa Birigwa, a coffee trader who is the royal chief of protocol, "we have been like children lost in a forest."

But he explains: "We Baganda are rediscovering our traditions. The Kabakaship is our cultural reservoir."

President Yoweri Museveni, who has ruled Uganda since 1986, agreed to restore the Kabaka and Uganda's three other tribal kingdoms after long negotiations which carefully circumscribed the role of kings to cultural and ceremonial functions.

But many in the royal entourage are already suffering from delusions of grandeur. Birigwa, the protocol chief, sees the establishment of a permanent royal court and an executive office staffed by "managers, financiers and lawyers" that would execute the king's policies.

The Kabaka, he points out, will soon come into hundreds of acres of royal land and buildings that were confiscated under Obote's rule. The Kabaka's income, he says, could be used to spearhead national self-help and development as well as the standard royal favourites: charities, widows and orphans.

King Ronnie, however, will be walking a political tightrope. There are many nostalgic



Buganda's new king: no wish to interfere in domestic politics

Baganda who would like to use the Kabaka as a rallying figure for a secessionist movement. Diplomatically, the king says he has no wish to interfere in politics.

President Museveni was the guest of honour amid the hundreds of invited dignitaries, African princes, scarlet-robed bishops and minor British nobility that made up Saturday's colourful medieval pageant.

He watched the proceedings in silence. Some believe Museveni consented to the restoration of the Kabakaship to placate the Baganda, many of

whom fought alongside his guerrillas in the bush war that ousted Obote. A contented Baganda, the sceptics argue, are less likely to clamour for multi-party democracy.

But the jubilation on Saturday was genuine. As princesses ululated and shimmied to the beat of royal drums, and a cheering crowd carried Mutebi II away, one clan elder remembered the silent president.

"Museveni," he hailed at the top of his voice, "without you we would never have had our kingdom back. May you rule 100 years." It was the first time the president smiled.

Liberian ceasefire in force

A CEASEFIRE signed a week ago to end Liberia's civil war came into effect successfully at midnight on Saturday, a West African military force officer said yesterday. Reuter reports from Monrovia.

"All sides seem to be observing the ceasefire. I think every body is fed up with the fighting," said Mr John Addah, deputy field commander of Ecomog, the joint West African military force.

Mr Addah said some fighters of Mr Charles Taylor's rebel National Patriotic Front for Liberia (NPFL) had tried to surrender at Ecomog lines in the Buchanan area, south-east of Monrovia.

"We told them to go back to their positions until we set the process of disarmament in motion. We want them to be able to benefit from the rehabilitation programme," he said. In a speech to the nation interim President Amos Sawyer said: "The guns of war in the Liberian crisis are silent for ever." The NPFL's radio station urged fighters to return to their homes and rebuild their lives.

More than 150,000 people have been killed in three and a half years of warfare, according to the United Nations.

Indian police arrest truck strike leaders

POLICE moved against a strike by India's 1.8m truckers yesterday, arresting 10 leaders at the start of a protest against transport taxes, Reuter reports from New Delhi.

The Press Trust of India reported that police in the eastern state of Orissa arrested the leaders at their homes, while others went underground to evade arrest.

Orissa authorities have declared illegal the indefinite strike, which started at midnight on Saturday.

Under special powers, India's state governments can force drivers to carry essential sup-

plies. Refusal could mean six months imprisonment and a fine.

Rajasthan and Gujarat are two other states which have banned the strike. No arrests have been reported there.

The truckers have vowed to immobilise all freight until New Delhi agrees to abolish road and inter-state taxes.

The arrests, ahead of another round of discussions planned between truckers and government officials, were likely to harden the strikers' stand.

The strike has been organised by the All India Motor Transport Congress.

GM boost for car industry in Taiwan

GENERAL MOTORS of the US has signed a letter of intent with Taiwan's Economics Ministry to help develop the island's car industry. Reuter reports from Taipei.

The pact calls for GM and Taiwanese partners jointly to promote overseas markets and upgrade the capability of local car component manufacturers.

The pact is the fifth such agreement signed by Taipei, Mr Yang Shih Chien, Taiwan's vice-economics minister, said at a news conference at the weekend.

Taiwan's car market has been growing because of the booming economy, with domestic car and truck production totalling 230,000 in 1992 compared with 280,000 in 1991.

General Motors has a five-year agreement with Taiwan's Chinese Automobile Co (CAC), announced earlier, under which CAC assembles Opel Astra sedans on behalf of GM for Taiwan's domestic market.

Production started last month and monthly output is between 800 and 1,000 cars. This will jump to 2,000 in early 1994, CAC said. CAC has invested US\$45m (£20.2m) in the project, he added.

General Motors has also invested more than \$7.5m in local vehicle parts factories making some components for the Opel Astras, CAC said.

Ex-ministers indicted in S Korea corruption drive

By John Burton in Seoul

TWO former South Korean defence ministers have been indicted for allegedly accepting bribes in connection with military contracts.

The indictments followed a recent investigation by the government's Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI) into military procurement, which was conducted as part of the new civilian government's anti-corruption campaign.

Mr Lee Jong-koo and Mr Lee Sang-hoon, both former military generals, served as defence ministers in the previous government of President Roh Tae-woo.

General Han Chu-sok, a former air force chief of staff, was also indicted on bribery charges.

Six executives were fined Won1m (\$823) each for giving bribes to the officials. They include Mr Chung Mong-koo, the chairman of Hyundai Precision & Industry and a son of the founder of the Hyundai group, Korea's largest conglomerate.

Mr Chung is alleged to have bribed officials for contracts associated with the Korean K-1 tank, which is produced by his company.

Other businessmen fined included the vice-chairman of Korean Air and an adviser to

Samsung Aerospace Industries. The BAI probe was linked to efforts by President Kim Young-sam to curb the power of the military, which formerly ruled the country.

Nineteen senior officers were recently purged for their role in the 1978 coup. Several former military chiefs also face charges of accepting bribes in return for granting promotions.

It is widely believed, however, that military corruption was more widespread than that unearthed by the BAI. But its investigation was limited in scope because President Kim did not want to alienate the military further.

Lock-out threat dropped at Hyundai shipyard

By John Burton

A CONFRONTATION at South Korea's Hyundai Heavy Industries, the world's largest shipyard, was averted at the weekend as the company dropped its threat to lock out 18,000 striking workers.

Labour-management negotiations will resume on Friday after workers take their annual one-week summer holiday.

The government had hoped to end the two-month long industrial dispute at Hyundai.

South Korea's biggest conglomerate, by the end of July.

The Hyundai strikes have been blamed for helping to plunge the current account into a \$691m (\$395.6m) deficit in June after it posted a \$283m surplus in May.

This was chiefly due to reduced motor vehicle exports resulting from a strike at Hyundai Motor. That dispute ended on July 23.

HHI is the largest of four Hyundai subsidiaries still on strike. The union is seeking a

pay increase above the 4.7 per cent rise offered by management and demanding the reinstatement of fired union leaders.

The strike at HHI has cost the group \$126m in lost sales.

Workers at Hyundai Wood Industries are locked out, while a similar threat faces Hyundai Construction Equipment. The union at Hyundai Electrical Engineering rejected a proposed pay accord on Saturday.



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NEWS: UK

Trademark reform link to EC HQ

By Alison Smith

A MUCH-DELAYED overhaul of the law on trademarks, intended to simplify and modernise the system for registering and protecting them, is set to be brought forward in government legislation this autumn.

Pressing ahead with the move is intended to strengthen the UK's hand in its lobbying for London to be the site of the European Community trademark office. The office is among the institutions still awaiting a location, and no agreement is expected for some time.

The new law will also contain a provision allowing the UK to ratify the protocol to the Madrid Agreement, an international system for the protection of trademarks, making it easier for UK trademark owners to obtain protection in other countries.

The proposals are based on the white paper (policy document) published in September 1990. Until now, parliamentary time has not been found for a bill (draft legislation), because ministers have not given it political priority.

It will be the third piece of legislation for next session sponsored by the department of trade and industry, even though the government's business managers have sought to curb the number of bills. The DTI's other bills are the flagship measure on deregulation and the legislation to privatise British Coal. The bill has been bounced out of the programme before, but officials are confident that this time it will make the statute book.

The main elements of the bill are expected to be: a more flexible definition of the kinds of signs that may be treated as trademarks; a presumption that a mark ought to be registered unless there is some specific objection; simplified procedures for registering marks with the Trade Marks Registry; and improved protection for existing trademarks.

Tory calls for 'whole political spectrum' to combat long-term unemployment

Minister seeks consensus on jobless

By David Goodhart, Labour Editor

MR DAVID HUNT, UK employment secretary, has called for a national consensus between the main political parties on a strategy for combating long-term unemployment.

Mr Hunt, a standard bearer of the left in the Tory Party, said at the weekend: "It has now become such an intractable problem that we must find a way of involving people from across the whole political spectrum. If you can get a general agreement, it allows you to move away from stale arguments about resources."

About a third of the 2.5m unemployed have been out of work for more than a year, and the proportion is likely to rise even if unemployment as a whole continues to fall.

Mr Hunt said he had received "indications" from many people "across the political and industrial spectrum" that they would be ready to work with the government.

Although he would not name individuals Mr Hunt has a close relationship with Mr Frank Field, the maverick Labour MP and has also established a rapport with Mr John Monks, general secretary-elect of the Trades Union Congress.

Mr Hunt has just returned from a short tour of the US, looking at welfare schemes, which require the unemployed to work for their benefit.

He said he had "reservations" about the element of compulsion in such schemes and pointed out that the US had a very different, and generally less generous, benefit system from the UK's. But he also noted that it was the Democrats, and not the Republicans, who were now considering introducing a national workfare scheme. "I think President Clinton's friends in the Labour Party should take note of that," he said.

Mr Hunt saw only junior officials in the US Labor Department but he did reach agreement on funding a joint study of how the US economy has produced so many new jobs over the past few years.

"Europe has a lot to learn from the US experience, but it seems that there is no clear idea in the US as to why they have been so successful," he said.

More than half of British workers fear they could lose their jobs over the next 12 months, the latest in a

monthly series of Mori surveys published exclusively in the Financial Times today suggests. Fear of redundancy appears to have increased sharply over the past few weeks. In spite of five successive monthly falls in unemployment and government claims that economic recovery is under way, in May, 43 per cent of those questioned by Mori said they were either "very concerned" or "fairly concerned" about the possibility of being made redundant or becoming unemployed over the next 12 months. By July this had risen to 51 per cent.

government's professed neutrality in the round-table talks process and its statement of "no strategic interest" in the province, provide the basis for a negotiated end to the political violence.

Significantly, Sinn Féin has substantially moderated its tone over recent months, and although it still argues that Britain must go one step further and make a commitment to militarily and politically disengage from Northern Ireland, it sets no deadline for this and has been making increasingly conciliatory statements directed towards the Unionists.

Mr Hume's key argument now looks very shaky however, and with it his hopes of ending the IRA bombing campaign and eventually bringing Sinn Féin into the peace process.

In private, the Republic's government officials now talk about playing the United States card - asking the Clinton administration to appoint a "peace envoy" to Northern Ireland. British objections have until now restrained Dublin from pushing this option. But the Tory-UUP "understanding" may now mobilise the Republic's powerful lobbyists in Washington, and trigger the US's first direct involvement in Northern Ireland's affairs.

A further option might be for the Republic to ease its 22-year broadcasting ban on Sinn Féin. Mr Michael D. Higgins, the minister responsible for broadcasting is known to be opposed to the ban. If it were to be eased in the Republic, it would increase pressure for a review of a similar ban in the UK, end

here, where a large part of the population consider themselves Irish". He said that Mr Molyneux's understanding with Mr Major "signifies a dead-end for the talks process."

Hilbert, the British government has professed neutrality in the talks process, saying it has no preferred outcome. A key phrase used by Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary of state, and first coined by his predecessor, Mr Peter Brooke, was that Britain has "no strategic interest" in Northern Ireland.

Since last April Mr John Hume has been involved in bilateral talks with Mr Gerry Adams, the leader of Sinn Féin - the political wing of the Irish Republican Army - a move which has angered Unionists but which Mr Hume says is aimed at bringing the political violence to an end.

Unionists accuse Mr Hume, Sinn Féin and Dublin of trying to set up a "Pan-nationalist front". Although there has been discomfiture in Dublin the official government reaction is that "Mr Hume is an experienced politician and knows what he is doing."

According to those close to the Hume-Adams talks, one of Mr Hume's key arguments has been that the British

The price to be paid for Major's majority

Tim Coone says the PM's 'understanding' with the Ulster Unionist Party may end with Dublin seeking a US 'peace envoy'

remaining period of this parliament". Some of the changes envisaged by the UUP include the establishment of a Northern Ireland Select Committee at Westminster, the broadening of local government powers in the province, and "greater attention being paid to persons with experience in security issues. I include myself amongst them."

Asked whether these changes would signify the abandonment of the 1985 Anglo-Irish agreement Mr Maginnis said "I certainly hope so". This has set alarm bells jangling in Dublin. Mr Albert Reynolds, the Irish prime minister, said last week that he would be "very concerned" by any unilateral moves made by the British government on Northern Ireland.

One of his aides expanded upon this saying "If a clear warning is made to London that any unilateral move would be viewed as undermining the Anglo-Irish agreement, but they go ahead and do it anyway, then one can only conclude that this would lead to a major crisis in Anglo-Irish relations."

In Belfast, a spokesman for the nationalist SDLP party, led by Mr John Hume, said "This is an integrationist move, making Northern Ireland similar to Scotland or Wales and ignores the fact that we have a divided community

Britain in brief



UK banks 'second best' in W Europe

British banks are the second most efficient in western Europe after the French in terms of their ratio of costs to income, an analysis of human resources says. This is because the cost of employing staff outside Britain is on average 2½ times higher.

The analysis by the financial services analysis company Lafferty Group finds that the proportion of cost to income per employee in 1990 was 25.3 per cent in Britain against 22.3 per cent in France. The highest rate was 41.7 per cent in Switzerland and 40.1 per cent in Italy.

The figures are based on data from 400 of the 500 largest banks in 25 European countries. They provide a benchmark for the year when most European banks were about to embark on cost-reduction programmes to improve staff efficiency after widespread expansion in the late 1980s.

ICI plans big development

One of the largest commercial developments in Britain is being planned by Imperial Chemical Industries on 1,500 acres of surplus land it owns at Severnside near Bristol. It believes that eventually there could be employment for over 10,000 people.

ICI describes the land, which is adjacent to its Severnside works, as a "major strategic holding" for which it is now bringing forward a "master plan" for a range of business and industrial use. "We have a fantastic opportunity and will provide competition for every major site in the region," said

Mr Andrew Sturt, ICI's group property manager.

The company will not act as the sole developer but is in informal discussions about partnerships which might take the form of joint ventures or a consortium.

"We will invest money to enhance the landholding but there is no prospect of ICI entering into development as a risk taker. We are concentrating on our core businesses," Mr Sturt said.

Rising output brings jobs

Rising output from British industry produced an increase in manufacturing employment in July for the first time in two years, the latest monthly survey of purchasing managers shows.

And a Confederation of British Industry quarterly survey today says smaller manufacturing companies are planning to spend more on plant and machinery in the next year - the first planned increase in investment in more than four years.

The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply said its purchasing managers' index fell slightly to 53.0 per cent from 53.7 per cent last month; but was still above the key 50% level which indicates expansion in the manufacturing economy.

City plan to fight bombers

Corporation of London, the City's local authority, is expected to publish a set of proposals tomorrow designed to reduce the risk of further bomb attacks by the IRA. The most controversial measure being considered is the creation of a permanent security cordon. This would involve maintaining the road blocks and checkpoints installed two months ago. The Corporation will also propose a range of surveillance measures to improve security. These include an increased number of security cameras, neighbourhood watch schemes and greater coordination of companies' security staff and camera systems.

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 - (b) Stage B. The prices and telephone models offered should be submitted. The bids should be deposited in the "tenders" box at the above address by no later than noon on the 8th of September 1993. The bids should be submitted in an envelope marked: Tender 94/92/101/1 - Stage B. The models should be submitted in a separate package on which the tender number and bidder's name are marked.
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- The tender documents may be obtained by submitting a written application and a receipt for a non-refundable deposit in the amount of U.S. \$200.00 sent to Union Bank, Main Branch, Jerusalem, Israel, account no. 13-051-886800-68. Both may be sent to the following fax no. +972-2-241001 (Orna or Silvi).
4. The quotations should be deposited in the "tenders" box at the above address by no later than noon on the 29th of September, 1993.
 5. The bids should be submitted in an envelope marked: Tender: 16/93/100.
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John Cleese is not your regular management guru. Gurus take themselves seriously, are pompous, present common sense as science and drop big names in business.

By contrast, Cleese thinks the tricks of management are pretty obvious. He spends no time talking to businessmen, claiming he does not know any. He is as much the ordinary bloke as his towering fame will allow. He sits in his seriously rich Notting Hill house looking casual in a grey track suit, and is so adamant he knows nothing that his minder has to intervene.

"No, John," she says, "you are so perceptive. You look at a series of problems that are presented by a company, and your strength is saying I don't believe that is their problem. It is something deeper."

Her name is Tina Tietjen. Since she and a partner paid \$50m in a management buy-out for his video training company, Video Arts, she has had a particular interest in selling Cleese's management skills.

In this she has been supremely successful. Cleese, the British comedy actor who shot to fame with the Monty Python television series, has become the world's most popular management trainer. Millions of managers have watched him play the part of buffoon manager in training videos. In the US, thousands have flocked to hear him lecture on management, and many have thousands have paid \$250 for a 30-minute video of the occasion. Even veteran guru Peter Drucker is not that big.

Managers who have bought the videos are now buying the book. Co-written with his analyst, Robyn Skynner, *Life and How to Survive It* coins the phrase "healthy company", and argues that healthy companies resemble healthy families, only bigger.

Management is an odd interest for a comic. How did it all begin? Cleese, as is now his way, immediately reaches for the psycho-analytical rather than the hysterical answer. It was because he was the only child of elderly parents and, therefore, was drawn towards teams, he begins.

But surely it is a long way from being a lonely child to making training videos about how to make meetings more productive?

"Meetings with the Python team were a low-grade nightmare," he says. "So when someone asked me in 1976 to write a film about how to run an efficient meeting, I found it fascinating. And then once you've done one area you get interested in another and then there's an area in between."

Cleese lives by two of his central tenets: never to pretend he knows something when he does not, and to admit to making mistakes. This makes him frustratingly hard to pin

John Cleese talks to Lucy Kellaway about his unlikely role of management trainer

Acting the guru



Ashley Ashwood

John Cleese: "People ask me what's going on in British industry. I don't know"

down. "People sometimes ask me what's going on in British industry and I say I don't know. There's no point pretending I do."

Tietjen starts to look anxious again and points out that John is a natural teacher.

Cleese reluctantly admits that after giving his speech about the value of making mistakes he gets

mohbed by managers saying: "I wish you could tell my boss that." The speech makes a distinction between "the copper-bottomed mistakes like wearing a black bra under a white blouse" and those which are a fair try but just happen to be wrong.

Does he think that people who have watched the videos have taken

note? "People who are quite reasonably healthy will learn things and will change," he says, and as if to prove the point he cites a personal example. "When I was first in showbiz I was frequently 10 minutes late for things. I realised that I was not leaving enough time to get there. So he changed; simple as that."

When Cleese admits to knowing anything, he puts it down to intuition. It is this that allows him to sort out a good team from a bad one. "The first thing you notice is that you feel something isn't quite right. Then you do a bit of digging around to try to figure it out. If you use your intuition - which men in our society don't really use or trust very much - you can fairly easily see if people are communicating with each other in an open way, or if they both have hidden agendas."

He cites two recent films he has been involved in. One has been easy because everyone knew who was meant to be doing what. The other has been a dog's breakfast. "You realise the thing is out of control, and everyone is making it up as they go along. I believe that if you can get egos out of the way, be straight with people, listen to what they say, it is amazing what can be achieved."

However this smooth-running, plain-dealing is not the norm. "Most people try to create mythologies about themselves. They pretend they know when they don't know, get stuck in all these little acts." Worst, he says, was Robert Maxwell, "the most complete clown in Britain". Cleese takes a dim view of most big businessmen: "The sad thing about our culture is that it expects this sort of egotism from people at the top of companies. Their behaviour is very like five-year-olds. It is only the powerful people who can get away with it, and because they are so visible, they are seen as heroes."

It is not just the big bosses who are inadequate. Many people are not in good enough psychological nick to be ready for the healthy company he and Skynner describe. "A lot of people are not going to like it," he says. "If you want to go into a healthy company you better be fairly healthy yourself. If you come from a very distrustful, manipulating family and go into an organisation where people are open with each other it would drive you mad."

The difference between a healthy and unhealthy company, he and his shrink have figured out. Is confidence. "Not the bloated, sticking chest out strutting around confidence," he says, his words creating a rare glimpse of the old manic Cleese. The confidence is the quiet confidence of a batsman. And how should companies acquire it?

Not for the first time, he says: "I don't know."

A cross-cultural minefield

Gillian Tett on the surprises that ensued when British managers set out to teach the Russians western skills

At 9am nearly half the training course had retired with a hangover. Two more had vanished, apparently conducting a romance. And though the rest seemed eager to learn about management skills, several more were stuck in Moscow, awaiting their correct papers.

By the traditions of Russian industry, this may have been nothing new. But for the British organisers of the seminar it was a vivid reminder that teaching western management skills to a Russian audience is, at best, an unpredictable task.

Few doubt that the Russians will need a heavy investment in training to help their economy undergo transformation. But the type of business training that is appropriate - and how it can be imparted in an effective manner - is an issue that remains a potential cross-cultural minefield.

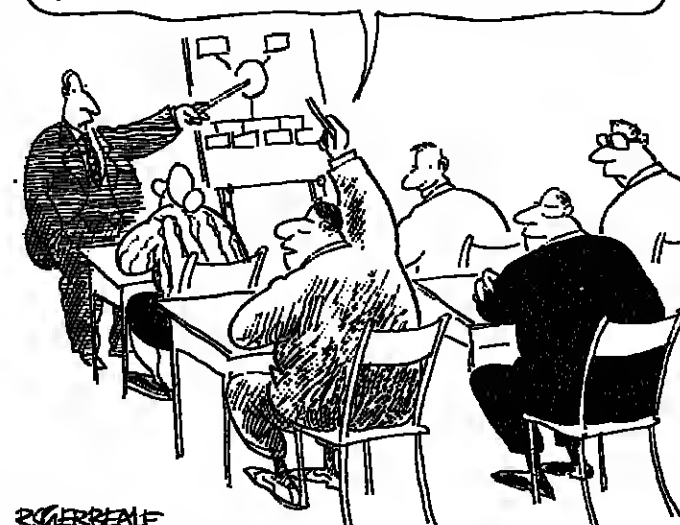
This particular exchange, arranged between Moscow Business School and Healey Management College, and sponsored by Digital, set out to address a key question: in a culture which has had no experience of western-style management or personnel skills, how do you create responsible and decisive managers?

Or, to use the management training terms, how do you set about "empowering" ex-bureaucrats?

To tackle the theme, the 10 Russians, some from business, others from the Moscow Business School, were allowed to window-shop on a range of western management theories - British Petroleum told them about personnel strategy, Dun and Bradstreet spoke about human resource management, while Digital representatives lectured on issues ranging from the EC to employee empowerment.

In an atmosphere of polite bemusement, the Russians were handed a series of "machine sense tools" - not unlike multi-coloured designer toys - and told to analyse them in a session on confidence building and decision making.

CAN WE SKIP THE MANAGEMENT THEORY AND HUMAN RESOURCE STRATEGY AND GO STRAIGHT ON TO GOLDEN HANDSHAKES?



ROGER REALE

"It has long been argued that if you give people the freedom and tell them they have it, they will be empowered," said Helen Kelly, an American psychologist, who devised the exercise as a means of teaching employees and troubled teenagers self confidence and innovation.

"It's very exciting to see what can happen with this," echoed Derek Thomson, a management consultant with Kodak, who explained that his company had already used the exercise on the factory floor in the US, with some "very encouraging" results. "The best thing is that it can be used in any language."

The Russians, who seemed as intrigued by the glue sticks and complimentary Kodak cameras as the toys themselves, obediently set to work.

By the end of the morning, they had produced a range of paper machines, on which some chose to express their creativity by doodling designs.

"The thing about this is that

you can learn to do things you thought you couldn't," explained Kelly, through an interpreter, who had gainfully succeeded in translating "empowerment" but had rather more problems translating the word "fun".

And what did the Russians think they had learnt?

"It's all been very unusual, but I am not sure that I can use it in my work with customs regulations," admitted Natalia Koulikova, who worked in international trade at the Moscow Business School.

Martina Mdivani, a professor in human resource management, was rather more hopeful. Russian managers desperately need, she said, to learn the principles of conflict, control and personnel management. And, indeed, she found the "empowerment" message both fascinating and apt.

"But the problem is that we don't have very much money for all these exercises now," she said. "Most managers are more concerned with profits than playing with paper games."

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NEWSLETTERS

Architecture/Colin Amery

Building on the imagination

I'm worried about Sir Peter Holmes. He was until recently the chairman of Shell Transport and Trading plc, and every working morning he climbed 62 flights of stairs to reach his office on the 26th floor of the Shell Tower on London's South Bank. He says in one of the programmes in the BBC 2 series *Architecture of the Imagination* (9.30pm every Friday for five weeks) that "it is a form of pain, but I do it to keep fit."

I can hardly bear to think of the Sir Peter must be in now he has retired; how does he try out his muscles every morning without the challenge of those 62 flights? How he must miss that private satisfaction of reaching his office at the top of the stairs knowing that he has himself scaled the flights on foot. I suppose we had all thought of the skyscrapers of New York as giant "ego statements" but not many company chairmen take the climb to the top quite so literally.

The interesting thing about this new architectural series for BBC 2 by the independent producers Third Eye Productions, is that it deals with architecture without dwelling on buildings. *Architecture of the Imagination* explores built elements of our surroundings from the psychological, mythological and poetic points of view. There are five programmes, each one focused upon one element: the door, the stairway, the window, the bridge and the tower.

To extend the ideas examined in the programmes each evening a classic film will be shown that features one of the five themes. These films will

undoubtedly add a great deal to the series as they have clearly been so carefully selected. Last Friday, for example, the first programme, "The Door", was well supported by Fritz Lang's "Secret Beyond the Door". The whole series is anchored by the presence in each programme of the American writer, cultural historian and psychologist James Hillman, who provides a constantly illuminating commentary.

There is a risk in this sort of programme that the psychological approach to the everyday can look both obvious and contrived. James Hillman's approach is questioning rather than dogmatic and his manner is agreeably gentle. The viewer is allowed to let his own imagination roam - and this is unusual in television. Mark Kidel is clearly a very sensitive and visually literate producer and director. He seemed to me to have an excellent rapport with artists - and I have to say I found the artists' responses by far the most rewarding aspect of the programmes. It was noteworthy too how few architects there are in the programmes: can this be some comment upon the quality of their imagination?

Critics have the privilege of seeing all five programmes on video in advance and I can confidently say that, although the first programme last Friday on "The Door" was good, the series gets better and better as it goes on. The pairing of feature films and programmes that is particularly effective is that of "The Tower" and King Vidor's remarkable film based on Ayn Rand's book *The Fountainhead*. This is the film that

inspires men to become architects; it stars Gary Cooper as the architect-hero and I am sure much architectural arrogance can be blamed on the powerful imagery of this film. All architects will be glued to BBC 2 that night.

Last Friday's programme on the door introduced us to our guide, Mr Hillman, and with him an artist, a freemason and a Russian Orthodox priest. The ideas we have of emotional security and practical safety were considered as well as the role the door plays as a welcoming and an excluding agent. The film clips showed many a painting heroine slamming her door against the ravages of the world. The artist Ben Johnson has a calmer approach although he is obsessive about doors and indeed asks visitors to his studio to remove their shoes before they cross the threshold into his own world. He paints doorways and vistas endlessly and is as concerned with their physical reality as with their symbolism.

Father Benedict Ramsden almost took us into the inner sanctum of the Russian Orthodox Church behind the iconostasis which is the screen that separates the congregation and the area reserved for the priests. This was one of the most beautiful parts of the programme where the camera and the architecture were creatively used to inspire us with a sense of mystery. The discussion that James Hillman has with us and with himself in this first part of the series does raise important questions about private and public space. His conclusions about the open plan office and the way it con-

dicts with our need for personal territory is significant. Perhaps architects do need the services of psychologists to help them avoid the errors they have certainly made in defining space as an abstract thing, not a worldly and everyday reality.

Try not to miss the pro-



Deanna Petherbridge's paintings - of a "fantasy architecture" as she calls it - often include mysterious and somewhat disturbing staircases, many of which lead nowhere

gramme on "The Staircase" this Friday for the marvellous insights it gives into the work of the artist Deanna Petherbridge - a glimpse of her dream world is highly illuminating. It is the mixture of art, psychology and architecture that makes this a rewarding series. It should be compulsory

viewing for architects but more particularly for anyone engaged in architectural education. For anyone engaged with students of architecture every Friday in August must be spent in front of the TV: at last a holistic approach to a subject that has been isolated by architects for far too long.

Sponsorship

BT connects with the grass roots

BT increased its profits in the first quarter of the year - which is excellent news for the arts. Like many responsible companies BT allocates a percentage of its profits, half a per cent in practice, to good causes, which include the arts.

Last year BT profits were down so the goodies-bag shrunk from £15m to £14m, although Roger Broad, who looks after the arts at BT, was able to negotiate an increase in his budget from £1.6m to £1.8m. This is by far the largest sum devoted by a UK company to arts sponsorship, and the probability of higher BT profits means it should grow again in 1994.

Broad must have the heaviest arts post bag in the land - more than 700 letters a day, most of which would like a cheque by return. The in-tray has grown by 40 per cent in the last eighteen months, reflecting the financial crisis hitting arts organisations.

Unfortunately most of BT's budget is tied up in long-term contracts, such as the National Touring Art Exhibition, organised by the South Bank to bring art to the regions, which mops up £1m over three years; Northern Ballet Theatre; and the biennial drama festival which finds fifty leading amateur theatrical companies simultaneously presenting a BT commissioned play, which this October is Peter Whelan's up-date of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

But nothing lasts for ever and BT's five-year sponsorship of the New Contemporaries Tour, at £65,000 a year, is up for re-appraisal.

This results in big media coverage (most of it unfavourable about the art on display) but small audiences in contrast to the National Touring Exhibitions which are attracting steadily larger audiences but less publicity.

There are exceptions: last month's display of Picasso prints at Leyhill Open Prison proved such a happy example of a sponsored media happening that it is to be repeated in another prison.

BT avoids big splashy events in favour of grass roots arts involvement although it cares greatly about media coverage and value for money.

It is now pumping £200,000 into amateur music under the umbrella of the National Federation of Music Societies, and its latest project is *Voices for Hospices*.

On one evening in October 1994 thousands of singers throughout the country, in hundreds of separate locations, will sing *Messiah*, and hospices could benefit by up to £1m from box office revenues.

BT is putting up £80,000 towards administration and publicity.

Computers and art are enjoying a creative love affair and IBM is doing its bit to bless the union. It asked print students at the Royal College of Art to come up with their impressions of the IBM AS/400 computer.

For its £15,000 in prizes IBM took the copyright on more

than thirty art works which will decorate IBM offices and be reproduced as gifts to key customers, as well as ideas that can be used to pep up advertising copy.

It also allowed one computer to get a full artist's paint job, and is considering dressing up computers, not the most decorative of machines, with colour and design.

Being sponsored by a terminal is rather like being discovered in a handsbush but Contact Theatre in Manchester and Tara Arts are happy to receive a £35,000 package from Manchester Airport T2, the T2 standing for Terminal Two.

The airport is proving a loyal supporter of local arts and is not afraid to back the experimental.

Most of the money goes towards a production of *Trifles* and *Cressida* which will open in September and then tour the world. Contact's audience is young people and Tara is the UK's leading Asian theatre company, attacking its first Shakespeare.

Whitbread's love affair with the Edinburgh Fringe intensifies. It is putting in more than £100,000 this year, with most going behind the Stella Artois brand, which keeps things humming in the Assembly Rooms.

In addition, Stella is sponsoring a Comedy Festival which embraces the three main Fringe venues, the Assembly Rooms, the Pleasance, and the Gilded Balloon.

Whitbread's Boddington brand will again be backing the Dream Tent in the Meadows, and the Supper Room is given over to Murphy's.

One unusual feature of the deal is that if the artists booked to star at the three venues, and Whitbread, fail to get the television coverage anticipated some of the sponsorship money will be withheld.

Meanwhile the Edinburgh Festival proper has again achieved its sponsorship target and - again - it is a record sum, £206,000, and an important contribution to this year's budget of £4.3m.

Scottish Power has shot ahead as the leading supporter with £50,000. The search is on for a broader base of backers rather than a reliance on Scottish financial institutions and other locals.

Jaguar made its first big contribution by hosting a party at which potential 1994 sponsors were met for the first time and entertained.

Barclays Bank is to sponsor, with £50,000, the spring 1994 tour of English Touring Opera (formerly Opera 80), which is taking *La Bohème* and *L'Elisir d'Amore* to fifteen venues in England.

The money will go towards expanding the chorus. Barclays has a tradition of sponsoring a touring arts company which gives it opportunities for local corporate hospitality. It previously supported London City Ballet.

Antony Thorncroft

Opera/Max Loppert

Monteverdi at Salzburg

The Salzburg Festival started out, in the early decades of the century, as a place of theatrical experiment. In the postwar era of Herbert von Karajan it developed into the epitome of the *Luzern-Festival*. Here the top names of the operatic and concert-giving world assembled for top fees in money-no-object performances at top ticket prices. Increasingly the "straight" theatre found itself consigned to the margins, by the time of Karajan's death, in 1989, the whole formula had become horribly decadent.

Now Salzburg is back on the road of experiment. This is the third year of Gerard Mortier's artistic directorship, and even where his horizon-widening approach is apparent. Trends and themes deemed unworthy of notice not long ago are energetically examined; significant composers and performers accorded non-person status by the previous administration are warmly embraced.

This year's modern-music compilations (Nono, Ligeti, Kurtág) offer a prime example. Nikolaus Harnoncourt, the pioneering Austrian period-practice conductor, offers another - uninvited in Karajan's day, since 1991 a mainstay of programming. Monteverdi offers yet another - *Orfeo* and *L'incoronazione di Poppea* staged with period-instrument accom-

paniment. Under Peter Seitz, Salzburg theatrical tradition is excitingly refreshed; *Coriolanus* under Deborah Warner (European debut) is already a big talking-point. (I shall return to the new *Coriolanus* in a subsequent report.)

Not everyone is happy. The old guard continues to rumble against Mortier's combative management style. The record companies, for whom Salzburg was once a licensed showcase, are unhappy. At a first-week press conference the Vienna Philharmonic wondered aloud whether it was still loved and valued here. Mortier's announcement that next year's Beethoven symphony cycle would go to Harcourt and the Chamber Orchestra of Europe can hardly have been irrelevant to such musings.

New patterns of audience attraction are incompletely formed; in these recessionary times, ticket sales are down. And artistically not everything this year has come quite right - even someone wholly in sympathy with Mortier's vision has to admit as much. The two Monteverdi productions make the point: *Orfeo* in the courtyard of the Residenz, *Poppea* in the vast space of the Grosses Festspielhaus. Both succeed as splashy, attention-grabbing events; both find different ways of (to my mind) cruelly diluting the profound

seriousness, the very modernity of the works in question.

Orfeo is a re-interpretation in Capital Letters by producer-designer Herbert Wernicke (a figure of note in continental opera houses so far unknown in Britain). In a daring visual conceit, a gigantic mock-up of the Residenz courtyard facade itself serves as set, slashed and knicked by a great scarlet gash.

The opera's dramatic purpose - here we go again! - in modern-day evening dress, evidently engaged upon a wedding party for Orpheus and Eurydice at which things get out of hand. Events, some of them dispersed to vertigo-inducing heights, are re-thought in what one can only assume is Wernicke's dialectical confrontation of the original libretto.

The trouble is that his "new" *Orfeo* plot proves obscure (at one point Eurydice dies then recovers, at another Orpheus stabs himself, lacking in its own strict logic, drenched in modern cliché, since moments of illumination were scarce, one ended up feeling that the cord of artistic tension connecting Monteverdi's time and our own had been frayed beyond repair. René Jacobs's slack, slow-tempo conducting of the Concerto Vocale was no help. Nor was the mediocre singing, though Laurence Dale (a baritonically rich, sensitive tenor Orpheus), Susan Graham

(La Musica), the veteran Jules Bastin (Charon) and Monica Bacelli (an Italian Messenger, *mirabile dictu*, with blessedly idiomatic enunciation) provided exceptions to the latter rule.

Poppea - surtitled in English and German (a Salzburg first), with Harnoncourt using a huge Concentus Musicus for his fancy Monteverdi edition - was a bloated burlesque. In Jürgen Fikm's production much jokey time-travelling (e.g. guards with portable TVs) clogged the severely logical thought-lines of this terrifyingly austere, intimate music-drama. No doubt, given the absurd choice of venue, some such enlargement was inevitable. This one was unforgettably coarse in spirit and even coarser in general singing style, with verismo phrasing that only underlined the preponderance of poor Italian diction.

Recitar cantando, indeed! Harnoncourt's reputation as a Monteverdi guru must surely have taken a knock. On the other hand, the reputations of the few really accomplished singers on hand - Sylvia McNair a deliciously cool, subtle Poppea, Philip Langridge an authoritative tenor Nero, Kurt Moll amazingly refined and stylish as Seneca, Andrea Rost a youthfully pure Drusilla - will only be enhanced, and deservedly so.

Wembley Stadium

Prince

Oh dear Prince has shrunk - in imagination, in impact, in showmanship. The attraction of the world's greatest one-man disco was that, although knees high to Wayne Sleep, he thought big. At a Prince show you could relax in the presence of the audience, space pods to ferry in the star, cartwheeling dancers and plenty of them, mighty voiced backing singers, giant screens, and lashings of innuendo. It was the night club of your dreams.

On this tour Prince is thinking small, a terrible mistake at Wembley Stadium which is only kind to megalomaniacs. Even his opening number is a joke against the audience. Some fireworks explode fitfully, and a harness descends to the stage bearing a figure shielded in a gold mask singing "My name is Prince". On reaching landfall there is a quick strip and instead of the man himself there is a convulsive girl dancer. Prince actually walks on to the stage.

It doesn't take long to realise that Prince had to keep moving because his songs are very sedentary. Even the hits from the past - and the act contained most things from "Purple Rain" to "Sign o' the Times" - would scarcely make "Your Hundred Best Tunes", and the recent stuff is doubtful re-treads. So

its all down to the sizzle.

The lone dancer does her best, undulating through a dozen costume changes, but the band seemed in bolshie mood, often trying to drown out the boss rather than to back up his piercing voice. It was almost inevitable that the stage was so arranged that sitting in one of the more privileged seats I never actually saw the musicians live, only conveyed through the side screens.

Of course there were moments to draw in the breath - a thousand streamers raining on the crowds; a light show to dazzle the most jaded eyes, turning the stage to oven red or incandescent white; plenty of Roman candles - but this seemed a melancholic Prince.

You actually felt he could have meant it at the finale when, as part of an interminably boring "joke" about what he calls himself these days (he prefers to be known as a symbol) he cries out "What's my name? take my name, I don't want it." Were we witnessing one of the most public breakdowns in entertainment history? It's a pity this moment of self doubt should be mixed up in a tedious routine in which the audience has to shout out the word, and the word is "come". It was time to go.

Antony Thorncroft

INTERNATIONAL ARTS GUIDE

BERLIN

MUSIC/DANCE
Jeunesses Musicales World Orchestra gives concerts on Sat and Sun at Gendarmenmarkt, with piano soloist Leif Ove Andnes (2548 9254). The 1993-4 season at the Deutsche Oper opens with a Ring cycle, first night Aug 24 (341 0249). Merce Cunningham Dance Company appear at Staatsoper unter den Linden on Aug 25, 26, 27. Daniel Barenboim conducts August Everding's opera staging of *Die Zauberei* at Waldbühne on Aug 29 (200 4762).

THEATRE
Metropol-Theater has West Side Story daily from tomorrow till Sun, followed from Aug 10 to 15 by Evita (2036 4117). Freilichtbühne an der Zitadelle has open-air performances of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* daily except Mon till Aug 15 (331 9920). Komödie has daily performances of Neil Simon's play *Runaway* (882 7893).

BONN

Belgian pianist André de Groote opens a cycle of Beethoven piano sonatas tomorrow at Beethoven-Haus. The cycle continues every Tuesday till Sep 28, except Sep 1 (832500). A long-forgotten comic opera by 18th century composer Christian Gottlob Neefe, entitled *Die Einsprüche* (The Protests), will be performed on Fri and Sat at the Arkadenhof of Bonn University (655088). Bonn Opera opens its 1993-4 season on Aug 28 with Prokofiev's ballet *Romeo and Juliet*, followed on Aug 31 by the first of five performances of the new Lyubimov/Schnittke music-theatre piece *Hommage to Zhivago* (773867).

GENEVA

The summer jazz and concert series continues with Margaret Allison and the Angelic Gospel Singers on Wed, and a one-man blues and folk evening with Chic Street Man on Fri, both at Théâtre de Verdure (388 3876). Dee Dee Bridgewater gives a concert next Mon at Hôtel de Ville (312 4353).

HAMBURG

The final week of the Kampnagel experimental theatre festival features a video-theatre work by German director Eva-Maria Martin, an evening entitled *Arbeit Macht Frei* by a theatre group from the north Israeli port of Akko, and performances by Colombian dance group Athanor Dance and American multi-media performer Rachel Rosenthal (270 5627). Hamburg's three-week music festival opens on Aug 22 and

focuses on Brahms, Schoenberg and Egyptian-Greek composer Jani Christou (1926-70). Conductors appearing at the festival include Gerd Albrecht, Kent Nagano, Yuri Temirkanov, John Eliot Gardiner and Lorin Maazel (247747).

MUNICH

OPERA FESTIVAL
Tonight and Thurs: Donald Runnicles conducts the Renner production of Don Giovanni, with Thomas Allen and Carol Vaness. Tomorrow and Fri: Marek Janowski conducts Nikolaus Lehnhoff's staging of *Die Walküre*, with Janis Martin, Nadine Secunde and James Morris. Wed: Roberto Abbado conducts Günter Krämer's new production of *La traviata*, with Julia Varady. Sat: Meistersinger with Bernd Weild and Lucia Popp. End of season (National Theater 221316).

NEW YORK

THEATRE
● *Kiss of the Spider Woman*: a Kander and Ebb musical, based on the novel by Manuel Puig, directed by Harold Prince, with a star performance from Brent Carver as the heroic homosexual window dresser (Broadhurst, 235 West 44th St, 239 6200).
● *Angels in America*: the first half of Tony Kushner's epic, freewheeling play about gay life, Reagan-era politics and Mormonism. Not to be missed (Walter Kerr, 219 West 48th St, 239 6200).
● *The Who's Tommy*: a stage adaptation of the classic 1969 rock opera, a collaboration between its original principal author, Pete

Townshend, and director Des McAnuff (St James, 246 West 44th St, 239 6200).
● *The Sisters Rosensweig*: Wendy Wasserstein's play, comedy with serious undertones, about the reunion in London of three American Jewish sisters (Ethel Barrymore, 243 West 47th St, 239 6200).
● *The Perfect Ganesh*: Terrence McNally's poignant play about two middle-aged American women from Connecticut making a pilgrimage through India (City Center, Stage 1, 131 West 55th St, 581 1212).
● *Three Horses*: a drama by Jon Robin Baitz in which a couple discover the spiritual cost of the rise to corporate power (Circa Repertory, 99 Seventh Ave South, at West 4th St, 924 7100).
● *Born to Rumba*: a musical about sex, sin and sacrifice, set in a pre-Castro Havana nightclub (Duo Theater, 62 East 4th St between Second Ave and Bowery, 598 4320).

MUSIC/DANCE
● Mostly Mozart Festival: tonight's concert features the Borodin Trio with Sergey Leiferkus. Orchestral concerts tomorrow, Wed, Fri and Sat are conducted by Neeme Järvi. The soloists tomorrow and Wed are pianist Lilian Kalir and violinist Maxim Vengerov, and on Fri and Sat, pianist Garrick Ohlsson and cellist Antonio Meneses. Next Mon: William Christa conducts Les Arts Florissants. The festival runs daily except Sun till Aug 21 (Avery Fisher Hall 875 5030).
● New York City Opera: repertory for the next two weeks consists of Carmen and three Puccini operas - *La bohème*, *Tosca* and the original 1904 version of *Madama Butterfly*. A 15-performance run of Romberg's

The Student Prince opens on Aug 14. The first new production of the season is the New York premiere of Tippett's *The Midsummer Marriage* on Sep 9 (State Theater 870 5570).
● Alice Tully Hall hosts classical jazz concerts at 20.00 tomorrow, Fri, Sat and Sun (721 8500). This week's guest artist at Blue Note Jazz Club and Restaurant is George Howard, music at 21.00 and 23.30 daily from tomorrow till Sun. Next week: Rasburn Trio (131 West 3rd St, near Sixth Ave, 475 8592).

STUTTGART

LUDWIGSBURG FESTIVAL
This month's recitalists are Jesse Norman (Aug 6), Antonio Meneses (Aug 12), Paco Pena (Aug 13), Deon van der Walt (Aug 14), Barbara Hendricks (Aug 16), Anna Sophie Mutter (Aug 26) and Shlomo Mintz (Aug 28). Nevilla Mariner and the Academy of St Martin in the Fields give a concert on Aug 25. The festival runs till Sep 26 (07141-949610).

VIENNA

The season of open-air performances in the palace gardens of Schönbrunn runs till Aug 14. Vienna Kammeroper's production of Don Giovanni alternates with a Moscow Chamber Ballet staging of Mozart's *Requiem* (513 0851).
● Dance Festival: the final week of performances at the Volkstheater features Stephen Patronio Dance Company from New York tomorrow and Wed, Regine Chopinot's Ballet

Atlantique on Fri and Sat, and Finnish National Ballet on Sun (835558).
● Kyburgbogen: highlights of this week's concert programme include a Mozart and Schubert programme tonight at the Konzerthaus with Ensemble Wien, a recital by a Japanese children's choir on Wed at Arkadenhof, a Mozart, Strauss and Bartok programme with European Community Youth Orchestra conducted by Leonard Statkin on Thurs at Konzerthaus, and an original instruments concert with Musica Antiqua Köln on Sun at Theater an der Wien. There is also a series of Schubert song recitals at Lichental (4000 8410).

ZURICH

KYBURGBADEN
Last year's inaugural event was so successful that the Kyburgbad (Aug 12-17) seems certain to become a fixture on the map of chamber music festivals. It owes its unique atmosphere to the open-air setting of Kyburg Castle near Winterthur, and to the participation of one of Europe's leading young string quartets, the Cammina Quartet. They are joined this year by the Vienna String Sextet (Brahms, Bruckner), the Orlando and Cherubini Quartets (Mendelssohn Octet), the Basle Madrigal Soloists (Schütz), Monteverdi, Gabriel) and Michael Collins, who joins the Manfred Quartet in Mozart's *Clarinet Quintet* on the opening night (Booking at Winterthur Tourist Office 052-212 0088, or Musikhaus Jocklin in Zurich 01-251 5900).

ARTS GUIDE

Monday: Performing arts guide city by city.
Tuesday: Performing arts guide city by city.
Wednesday: Festivals Guide.
Thursday: Festivals Guide.
Friday: Exhibitions Guide.

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Sky News: Financial Times Reports 0530
Saturday Super Channel: Financial Times Reports 0930
Sky News: West of Moscow 1130; 2230
Sunday Super Channel: West of Moscow 1830
Super Channel: Financial Times Reports 1900
Sky News: West of Moscow 0230; 0530
Sky News: Financial Times Reports 1930; 2030

Samuel Brittan

Europe will still need a monetary system



No currency system lasts forever. The one that lasted longest was based on an intrinsically valuable commodity, gold, and arose from evolution rather than conscious government planning.

But each attempt at a paper replacement has eventually come to grief. Whenever exchange rates are fixed or semi-fixed, long eyes are turned, from many different points of the political compass, on the supposed benefits of floating rates. Whenever rates are floating it is not long before demands are made for "stability", and schemes are hatched for the regional or worldwide pegging of rates.

A good case can be made in principle for saying that either extreme of purely floating rates or completely fixed rates, such as the gold standard or the now somewhat visionary EMU, would be better than the limping compromises with which the world has struggled. But until there is sufficient international government we shall have to continue limping along with mixed rates.

National authorities will never be prepared for long to treat the exchange rate with indifference, like the price of tomatoes. Nor, on the other hand, will they give absolute priority to maintaining a parity over all other objectives at all times - whatever they say.

The postwar Bretton Woods system, in which exchange rates were tied to the dollar, served the world fairly well. So long as US inflation remained low, all that other countries had to do was to maintain their dollar parities as long as possible, while they imagined they were carrying out Keynesian demand management policies. Whether Bretton Woods could have remained without the inflationary financing of the Vietnam war we shall never know.

But it usually takes a shock of this kind to shatter a system of pegged exchange rates. In the case of the ERM, the shock

has been the costs of German unification and the German government's unwillingness or inability to finance these costs through normal budgetary means. As a result an interest rate policy which suited German needs has been prohibitively tight for other countries concerned to fight recession. It may have been too high for Germany too. In coming months German interest rates are likely to drop to levels which, had they been reached a little earlier, would have avoided the crisis of the ERM. One lesson is that, if a currency system is to work, the anchor country must concern itself with the stable growth of nominal spending in the whole area, which is something the Bundesbank has resolutely refused to do.

An independent but accountable central bank needs to have clear and unified leadership

Another lesson is that an independent but accountable central bank needs to have clear and unified leadership. An assembly of provincial notables, each of whom had one vote, might have suited Germany during its reconstruction period of the 1950s when the dollar was the only international currency that counted. It is hopeless for a leading world financial power, which is also at the heart of the European Community, a better model is the New Zealand Reserve Bank whose governor, Don Brash, is personally responsible for success or failure.

In a famous essay in favour of floating rates (in *Essays in Positive Economics*, published in 1953), Milton Friedman argued that insisting on fixed exchange rates, and making domestic costs adjust, was like refusing to shift the clock for summer time and exhorting people to get up earlier instead. But this analogy tells against some of the more far-fetched claims for floating

rates. For a frequent resort to exchange rate changes can be compared to shifting the clock by changing amounts every day in the illusory hope of saving people the need to make the slightest adjustments in their habits. If depreciation becomes not a very rare resort, but a way of life, employers and trade unionists become used to it and project further depreciation and inflation into their expectations. The great gain that the ERM produced for France was that it broke through the cumulative cycle of depreciation and inflation.

A European currency system will have to be rebuilt for two reasons. One is that a single market is incompatible with volatile and unpredictable exchange rates. There may be other and even more severe obstacles, such as different national rules and practices. But currency instability cannot be brushed aside by reference to futures and forward contracts.

Secondly, monetary policy cannot be indifferent to the exchange rate. For it is the main link between a country's price level and that of the rest of the world. The severe recessions in Scandinavia have shown that abandoning the exchange rate peg does not thereby enable a country to "go for growth". The different British experience is due both to the fact that the recession began much earlier and the use made of the period of ERM membership and tight money before that to foster a competitive and non-inflationary atmosphere.

Much now hangs on the European Monetary Institute which is due to start next January as successor to the Basle committee of EC central bankers, and which will attempt to co-ordinate monetary policy among EC members. It has been accepted by all members, including even the UK, which has insisted on the opt-out from full monetary union. A consistent monetary policy for the whole Community, aimed at a non-inflationary growth of spending, is both desirable for its own sake and as a precondition of exchange rate stability.

The United Nations at the weekend signalled a breakthrough in the search for peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina when Bosnia's President Alija Izetbegovic grudgingly endorsed a broad framework for a settlement.

The plan, unveiled by Lord Owen and Mr Thorvald Stoltenberg, claims to preserve Bosnia's sovereignty as a union of three constituent republics. In reality, this plan amounts to Bosnia's partition along ethnic lines.

Serbian and Croat leaders welcomed the constitutional agreement as the means to end the 16-month war which has killed tens of thousands of people and driven 2m from their homes. The agreement, if it sticks, sanctions a Serbian victory. Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, his main backer, have won their war. They have succeeded in destroying Bosnia and replacing it with a loose confederation of ethnic states.

The war was about territory. First the Serbs, then the Croats and finally the Muslims tried to grab as much land as possible. Mr Izetbegovic finally succumbed to international and domestic pressure, abandoning his insistence on preserving a united, federal state. At the weekend he told Radio Sarajevo that the "younger generations will be left to realise the dream of Bosnia".

Serb forces currently claim to control 72 per cent of Bosnia and the Croats about 19 per cent. They expanded their territory at the expense of the Muslims, Bosnia's biggest ethnic group, which comprised 44 per cent of the pre-war 4.33m population.

Mr Karadzic calls the war "inevitable" because Serbs could not live under Muslim rule after 500 years under the Ottoman empire. He claims the war was the combustion of centuries of suppressed ethnic hatreds.

But the jumble of mosques, Orthodox and Catholic churches - many of which are now in ruins - reflected centuries of co-existence. "If everyone really hated each other so much, why were [there] so many mosques left to destroy?" asks Mr Haris Silajdzic, the Bosnian foreign minister.

General Ratko Mladic, Bosnian Serb commander, has masterminded the Serbs' path of destruction - burned villages, looted houses, and bombed-out factories. The Bos-

Breakthrough for a broken land

Laura Silber assesses the peace plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina drawn up at the weekend



Victorious Bosnian Serb soldiers stop their tanks at the weekend

nian Serbs have tried to erase any vestige of Muslim heritage in Bosnia. Hundreds of mosques and graves have been systematically destroyed.

When the war began in earnest, Serb fighters, then backed openly by the Yugoslav People's Army, expelled hundreds of thousands of Muslims in eastern Bosnia. But their campaign passed nearly unnoticed as international outrage focused on the Serbian encirclement of Sarajevo. Few Muslims remain in eastern Bosnia, where they once comprised a majority. They are confined mostly to isolated government strongholds: Srebrenica, Gorazde and Zepa. These towns, three out of six "safe areas" proclaimed by the United Nations, are at the mercy of their Serb besiegers.

The war was waged mainly in towns where Muslims, according to the 1991 census, comprised the majority.

Mr Milosevic and his proxies have nearly succeeded in achieving the ethnic division of Bosnia. This was unthinkable when the war began in April, 1992. Muslims, Serbs and Croats lived together in apartment blocks. In Sarajevo, the cosmopolitan capital, one-third of all marriages crossed ethnic lines.

But the international community, under the stewardship of the peace envoys, has now sanctioned the creation of ethnic states by force. Even Mr Izetbegovic at the weekend publicly admitted he was now defending "the Muslim nation".

Pushed into a corner, Mr Izetbegovic had little choice. The mediators first reinvented Bosnia's multi-ethnic "presidency" (the collective leadership elected in 1990), and then exploited already existing divisions within it. The 10-member body now remains split over the agreement. The three Serb representatives oppose any division of Bosnia, fearing the new Muslim state will have no place for ethnic minorities.

Many fear that the future that awaits each mini-state of the new Bosnian union is one

of ethnic dictatorship and violent racism - the opposite of the harmony promised by the peace envoys. The West, which so pompously adopted the principle of a multi-ethnic Bosnia at last August's London conference, has now unceremoniously abandoned it. The document adopted in London pledged to end the violence and reverse "ethnic cleansing", reaffirming Bosnia as a sovereign independent state.

Bosnian politicians, except for the three Croat members of the presidency, have criticised the new agreement. "Europe is abandoning the struggle to stop the rise of fascism," said Mr Selim Beslagic, the mayor of Tuzla, who is struggling to preserve his democratically elected multi-ethnic leadership. "It rewards the

aggressors and punishes the victims," he adds.

Lord Owen has been opposed to the republic's partition, saying it is not an ideal solution. While he has promised to fight on behalf of the Muslims to secure a viable state for them, he has so far failed to come up with the goods.

Mr Milosevic hailed the agreement because it "totally affirms Srpska republic", the self-styled Serb state. Mr Izetbegovic stressed that the agreement was "preliminary", explaining that the fate of Geneva talks hinged on negotiations over the maps.

The biggest challenge remains, in their relief at breaking the impasse, Serb and Croat leaders appeared to forget that all three sides in January also endorsed the constitutional principles of the

Vance-Owen plan.

If Lord Owen and Mr Stoltenberg hope to salvage any pretence of negotiating a fair and stable settlement to the war, then they will have to ensure that the Muslims are granted, as promised, at least 30 per cent of Bosnian territory in future negotiations over the details of a peace settlement. They must also ensure that the Muslims have guaranteed access through hostile territory to vital ports on the northern River Sava and the Adriatic.

In the current phase of negotiations, which produced this weekend's plan, there have been some ludicrous offers, among them Mr Karadzic's suggestion to build a tunnel out of Sarajevo, besieged and heavily bombarded since the beginning of the war, for the 380,000 inhabitants to travel to other parts of their "state".

The co-chairmen reportedly are upset that Mr Karadzic has so far refused to withdraw heavy artillery, which was agreed at the London Conference, and break the siege of Sarajevo.

The Serbs have not offered to make any concessions. If the Muslims, are to have any chance of preserving a Bosnian state, then they must have control over the corridor leading to strategic ports and not be at the mercy of their Serb and Croat adversaries. The plan does not give control over the external borders of the entire new Bosnian nation to the weak central government. It also leaves open the number of currencies to be circulated. The plan calls for demilitarisation of the Union, but it does not specify how this will be achieved.

"There are huge armies in Serbia and Croatia that are directly involved in the conflict," says Mr Nijaz Durakovic, an opposition deputy who is part of the Bosnian delegation.

The recognition of the collapse of a multi-ethnic Bosnia means the passage to ethnically-based states. Anti-nationalist Serb leaders are now asking where will they live. Partners of mixed marriages are wondering where they will go.

Mr Milosevic is in a hurry to reach a settlement, with the firm conviction that it will undermine the logic of the sanctions regime. Mr Karadzic has time on his hands. The remarkable lack of panic about the US plans to launch airstrikes reflects the Bosnian Serbs' belief that they have won the war.

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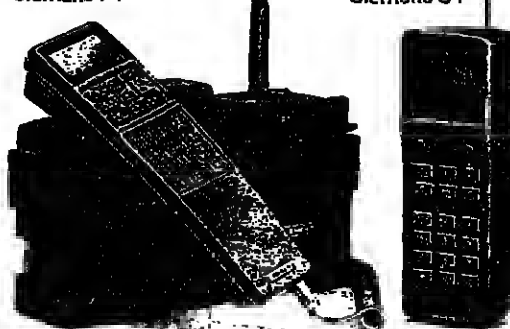
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Dynamic economies pinning futures on 'old-fashioned' coal

From Mr Richard G Tallboys.

Sir, As chief executive of the International Industry Association for one of the world's great growth industries, with coal producer members from 14 countries, I am repeatedly surprised at hearing British ministers and others referring to coal as being regarded worldwide as an old-fashioned fuel.

Where do they get their information? Who do they listen to? World production of hard coal has grown from less than 2,800m tonnes in 1980 to more than 3,500m tonnes in 1992. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe forecast is for world hard coal demand to rise to 4,300m tonnes by the year 2010. Some forecasts predict that by then coal will once again take precedence over oil as the largest single source of commercially traded energy.

Many developing countries see coal as the most readily available and plentiful fuel for the generation of the increased electricity that accompanies the earliest stages of an improved standard of living. It is perhaps even more significant that the world's most dynamic economies around the Pacific Rim all plan to increase the use of coal.

Official plans for Japan, Korea, and Taiwan all forecast

a continuing growth in the use of coal for power generation. The latest forecast by Japan's Electric Power Development Company sees coal's share of Japan's energy mix doubling over the next decade as 28 new coal-fired power stations come on stream. Steam coal demand for electricity generation in Japan is seen as rising from 31m tonnes in 1992 to around 74m tonnes annually by the year 2002. Few countries are more environmentally conscious than Japan.

Huge investments continue to be made in coal-fired power stations using the technologies already available to ensure that coal can be burnt more efficiently and in an environmentally acceptable way.

Across the world economies with a good track record in backing winners are backing coal.

It would appear that almost every country with prospects for significant economic growth sees coal as a prime fuel to generate the electricity without which no country can provide the improving standard of living that their people expect.

Richard G Tallboys, chief executive, World Coal Institute, 3 Logan Place, Kensington, London W8 6QN

Lesser and greater evils of Israeli bombardment of southern Lebanon

From Mr Zaki Jaffe.

Sir, Your editorial, "Lesson for Israel" (July 28), calls for an explanation. Lebanon should be responsible for curbing the Hizbollah. Alas, Lebanon, being a "subsidiary" of Syria, allows it a free hand. Your leader speculates that Israel's activities will compromise the peace talks. Syria, the most important negotiator with Israel, is actively supporting the Hizbollah. To talk peace on the one hand and to terrorise the north of Israel on the other hand is simply unacceptable. And if Lebanon cannot curb the terrorists and Syria does not want to, Israel is left with no alternative but to "do the job" itself.

Comparing the situation to Bosnia is an unjust statement. Muslims in Bosnia had no choice but to flee, just because they were Muslim. (And yes, they fled, inter alia, to Israel, not to England.) The Lebanese have a choice. The Hizbollah, like any other entity, cannot survive within a hostile population. Terrorism against Israel flourishes because Hizbollah is supported by the Shia inhabitants of south Lebanon. Let the government of Lebanon clean its back yard. Let the inhabitants of south Lebanon express their hostility to the terrorist group. Israel will welcome these inhabitants back.

No Israeli is pleased with these mass evacuations. It is

unfortunately the lesser of two evils, which alternative can be solved by Syria and Lebanon.

Zaki Jaffe, Fund Shefi & Co, 31 Ramban Street, Jerusalem 91-073, Israel

From Mr CWR Long.

Sir, Your editorial, "Lesson for Israel", is entirely correct. Israel's current military activities serve to heighten the radicalisation of the populations it so mistreats. The emptying of villages, the sacrifice of large numbers of innocent lives and the creation of yet more hundreds of thousands of refugees - at which Israel leads the world by far - will not enable it to achieve its professed aim of destroying Hizbollah, though it will no doubt end in the occupation of a further slice of Lebanon.

In the light of previous practice, it must be the presumption that no US-led coalition is going to treat Israel as it did Iraq, imposing sanctions and, if necessary, driving it from territory taken by force. Could it not, however, find it in its conscience to give at least a token indication of its unspoken disapproval of indiscriminate retaliation by, for example, suspending the cultural relations which link countries claiming to be civilised?

CWR Long, 33 Wynne Court, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7BG

Extent of Uruguay Round boost to trade is underestimated

From Mr Richard Blackhurst.

Sir, Samuel Brittan's recent article, "Trade and macroeconomics" (July 12), contained, as usual, a number of insights and arguments with which I am in complete agreement.

Two points, however, warrant clarification. The article refers to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade estimate of a "\$200bn (£133bn) per annum increase in world trade from a successful conclusion of the whole Uruguay Round".

In fact, the figure comes from a study by Jan Goldin and Dominique van der Mensbrugghe released last year by the OECD Development Centre. Their figure of \$195bn was quickly rounded to \$200bn.

Moreover, the figure is an estimate of the income gain (more goods and services produced from the same amount of resources) from a successful Uruguay Round, rather than an estimated increase in world trade.

It is also arguably an underestimate. It takes into account only the increase in market access for merchandise trade expected to result from the Uruguay Round and not increased market access for services. Furthermore, it is widely accepted that the strengthening of the GATT rules and their extension into new areas will also give an important boost to world trade and income by increasing the

predictability and stability of international trade relations.

Some readers may be puzzled by the cryptic nature of the sentence which, after noting that freer trade reallocates jobs more efficiently inside each country, adds "but [it] does not directly destroy or create new jobs".

Technically, it is true that freer trade leads to "fewer jobs than otherwise" in inefficient industries and "more jobs than otherwise" in export-oriented industries.

But it is also true that under a broad set of plausible circumstances, there will be an absolute increase in the number of export-related jobs. That is,

freer trade will lead to a net gain in employment in the export sector as compared to the pre-liberalisation period. Moreover, these jobs are likely to be higher-paying ones.

In the US, the typical manufacturing job in an export-oriented industry pays 17 per cent more than the economy-wide average, and there is no reason to assume that the situation is very different in western Europe. Freer trade creates new and better-paying jobs.

Richard Blackhurst, director, economic research and analysis, GATT Secretariat, 154, rue de Lausanne, Geneva, Switzerland

FINANCIAL TIMES

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Monday August 2 1993

High costs of going green

Environmental policies are entering a new phase. After two decades of frenzied environmental rule-making, attention is switching to questions of compliance and enforcement - and to the costs of cleaning up. Governments, pressure groups and industrialists need to take more account of that change if environmental policy is to move forward.

The raft of environmental laws and treaties which has been passed at both national and international levels has focused particularly on industrial pollution. The European Commission alone has issued about 200 "green" directives. This regulatory flurry has gone some way to answer the early campaigns of environmental groups.

Politicians have begun, rightly, to call for more uniform enforcement of these rules, recognising that countries can secure trading advantages - or suffer - from discrepancies in the way that environmental rules are applied. Last year's move to set up an EC network of pollution inspectors was a step in the right direction.

But better policing is far from the whole answer. A more measured approach to costs is also required. A dramatic example is the US's Superfund programme to clean up contaminated land. The US General Accounting Office has suggested that the costs to the government's Environmental Protection Agency and the private sector could be \$300bn in 1990 money over the next 30 years, and that the defence and energy departments could face further liabilities of \$200bn. Complying with these regulations would undermine large parts of the banking and insurance sector. No wonder such compliance looks increasingly unlikely to happen.

New rules

Uncertainty about whether past regulation will be enforced can also stall important new rules. In the UK, a decision on whether to remove more of the traces of lead in drinking water, following new, tougher World Health Organisation guidelines, is becoming embroiled in the debate about whether EC pesticides standards are too high.

Governments should not try to conceal the fact that some past regulation is unworkable and that

priorities must be established between competing claims. In some cases they will be right, too, to re-examine the scientific and economic basis for the rules. The EC water directives, among the oldest of European green rules, are a case in point.

For their part, environmental pressure groups deserve much of the credit for the tightening of controls on pollution. But unless they recognise the change of mood, they risk being left out of the next phase of the debate. For example, they have not had much of a role in shaping European water standards because of their unwillingness to concede that some of the quality levels they are demanding go beyond what is necessary to protect public health.

On the sidelines

Similarly, they have been almost entirely excluded from the debate over Britain's coal industry, and may put themselves on the sidelines of this autumn's UK government review of nuclear power. Coal-burning power stations are among the main causes of carbon dioxide emissions, implicated in global warming, whereas nuclear power emits none. However, the main lobby groups entrenched in opposition to nuclear power have led them to put more weight than is yet credible on the potential of energy efficiency schemes and wind and wave power as alternatives to coal.

But if the environmental groups are to play a bigger role in the debate about compliance and to have a change of telling the public whether companies are meeting pollution regulations, they need more information. Too many details of industrial emissions are kept hidden on the grounds of commercial confidentiality. Making companies publish data on the amount of waste discharged to sewers would be a start, so would releasing more reports from the many government committees studying the health effects of pollution. Ultimately a civilised policy towards the environment will depend on all parties concerned being fully informed and seeking agreement both on what is desirable and what is affordable.

This is the second of a series of editorials on environmental issues. The first was published on July 21.

Management by machismo

The message from IBM and a number of other big concerns could not be more clear. Jobs in almost any type of western company, at any level, are no longer secure in today's brutally competitive global marketplace. But what is less well understood is the need for companies to replace naked insecurity among their workforce with a redefined set of relationships to motivate those employees whom they wish to retain. The nature of those relationships, explicit and especially implicit, will dictate a company's productivity, flexibility, creativity and competitiveness.

The pressures to cut, cut and cut again have become irresistible in certain industries and companies - especially those, like IBM, which have taken far too long to adjust their corporate strategies to the new realities of their particular marketplaces. Even strategically healthy western companies, such as US General Electric, have delayed, "downsized" and redefined their "competences" and "businesses", and sold or subcontracted the rest. Many companies are now moving onto some form of "business process re-engineering", which in plenty of cases will reduce jobs further.

Employee morale

Mr Lou Gerstner, IBM's new chairman, is undoubtedly right to be wielding his hatchet. But this is not a sustainable way to run a company over time. Academic research has shown consistently that, while fear may motivate in the short term, prolonged uncertainty creates a fall in employee morale and productivity which is hard to halt, let alone reverse. Many of the best employees leave, while the rest are inclined to put their heads down and cease to give their all.

Companies which take this approach are practising the antithesis of the adage that "our employees are our greatest asset". Their behaviour contrasts starkly with the continued striving of large Japanese companies, even in their

Sideways careers

There are plenty of models to choose from. One of the best-known is Professor Charles Handy's "shamrock", with its three leaves: "core professionals", "the contractual fringe" and "part-time or temporary workers". Three characteristics, in particular, are common to all the models. First, the need for many people to develop "sideways" careers and a "portfolio" approach, instead of expecting to climb steadily within a single company and remain with it throughout their working life. Second, the consequential need for each employer to provide every-one with the time, opportunity and resources for continuous professional development, so that their skills remain up-to-date and tradeable. Third, the need for all kinds of flexible working arrangements to be encouraged within each category.

None of this is mere theory. Silicon Valley companies have been applying various elements of it for some time, as have some architectural practices since recession forced them to slash their personnel staffs. One of the most stringent examples is the external "managed contracts" under which Manpower, the employment services company, provides staff for various companies, including IBM. Not all organisations will wish to be "managed" or flexible. But they all need their employees' commitment, and must take steps to re-engage it.

Apple Computer today launches the Newton MessagePad, the first product of its much belated efforts to create a multi-billion-dollar market for "personal digital assistants" combining computer, communications and consumer electronics technologies.

The pocket-sized MessagePad can store, send and sort hand-written messages and notes and keep track of appointments. It is almost an electronic secretary. Scrawl "Call Mary" on the electronic tablet and it will automatically place the call. "Lunch with Bob, Friday" becomes an entry in your diary at your regular lunch time.

Yet, while John Sculley, Apple chairman, is telling customers that Newton will play a central role in the "digital age", Michael Spindler, who recently replaced Sculley as chief executive, must deal with the less appealing issue of Apple's declining profits.

Newton may boost Apple's reputation as top innovator in the computer industry, but it is unlikely to make a big contribution to its earnings. Polishing up Apple's image could prove easier than repairing the company's tarnished earnings record.

Last month, Apple reported the worst quarterly results in its 17-year history: net losses of \$188m, after a \$231m pre-tax charge for 2,500 job cuts; operating profits down from \$122m to just \$17m (including interest and other income) on soaring costs; revenues up 7 per cent to \$1.58bn, but short of Wall Street's expectations of about \$2bn.

Apple's financial slide has raised serious doubts about whether the company can continue to invest heavily in research and development, the foundation of its success. Sculley's technology vision seems out of synch with harsh economic realities.

As Lou Gerstner, IBM chairman, put it bluntly last week when revealing plans for drastic cuts at Big Blue: "If you are going to have a technology vision, the first frame had better be making money."

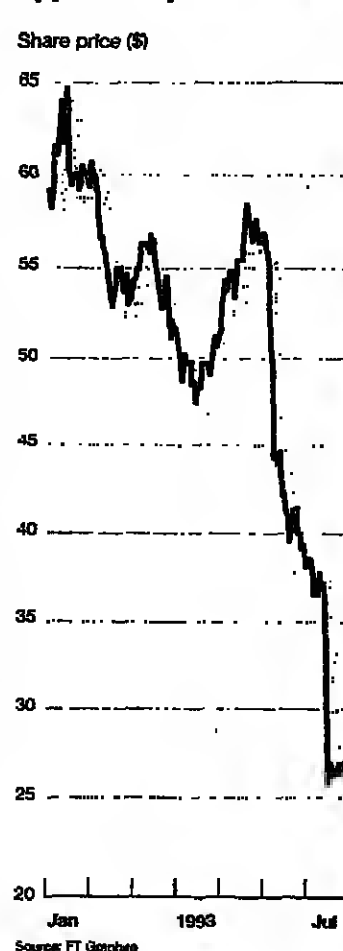
Ironically, Apple, the archetypal high-tech start-up company hatched in a Silicon Valley garage by two young technology enthusiasts, now faces problems similar to those of IBM, the established industry giant, albeit on a much smaller scale. Both companies have relied for too long on proprietary technology - IBM with its mainframe computers and Apple with its Macintosh personal computers (PCs) - letting competitors overtake them.

Throughout the 1980s, Apple charged premium prices - and maintained high profit margins - because its Macintosh technology gave it an advantage over PC rivals.

The computer maker is pinning its hopes for improved earnings on its new product line, writes Louise Kehoe

Apple looks to Newton's law

Apple Computer: more fruitful times ahead?



Michael Spindler, chief executive

That advantage has been virtually wiped out in three years by Microsoft's Windows, a program giving Macintosh-like ease-of-use features on all other PCs. With some 30m copies of Windows in use, it has become the standard operating system for PCs, the preference of corporate buyers and the platform favoured by developers of PC applications programs.

Forced to compete head to head with other PC makers, Apple launched a bold but risky bid, in late 1990, to increase its share of the PC market by lowering prices. For a time, the strategy seemed to pay off. Apple's share of the world market rose from about 8 per cent in 1990 to 12 per cent by the end of last year. But there it has stayed, despite continuing price cuts.

Apple may have stretched the Macintosh market to its limit. "The Apple Macintosh appeals to a certain type of customer," says Amy Wohl, an industry consultant and long-time Apple watcher. "Dropping prices does not expand the scope of Apple's market very much."

Wohl says Apple missed its chance in the mid-1980s to establish its unique Macintosh software as an industry standard. If Apple had licensed its software to other computer makers, before Windows took off, the company might be the market leader today, she suggests.

Instead, the technology that Apple once called its "crown jewels" now weighs heavily. Macintosh is not compatible with other PCs, so Apple has been limited to a narrow market segment while competitors have met the broader demand for standards-based PCs.

There have also been tactical errors. Apple began the financial year starting last September with a huge backlog of orders for the latest versions of its Macintosh PCs, but was unable to fulfill demand throughout the first half of the fiscal year. While competitors were lowering their prices, Apple held back until recently, not wanting to undercut the price of products which customers were waiting for.

When Apple was finally able to increase production to meet back orders, the company found many buyers had purchased competitors' PCs at lower prices.

Another factor affecting Macintosh sales is uncertainty surrounding future products. Next year, Apple plans to launch a range of computers based on PowerPC, a more powerful microprocessor technology developed in partnership with IBM and Motorola, the second largest US microchip maker. Although Apple has assured software developers that their products will run on PowerPC computers, potential Apple customers fear that, when they buy a Macintosh, it may be the last in the line.

Sculley is taking much of the blame for Apple's predicament. Crit-

ics charge he spent too much time exploring new technology and not enough on Apple's core PC business. However, Spindler, in his previous role as chief operating officer, was the steward of Apple's PC business long before his promotion to chief executive in mid-June.

Handing off the chief executive post to Spindler was "a non-event", Sculley said, because it merely made official a division of powers that had been in place, with Sculley immersing himself in creating opportunities for Apple and Spindler running daily operations.

The question now is whether

Need to legislate now on privacy law



PERSONAL VIEW

The least attractive attribute of British newspaper editors is their penchant for propagandising against a fundamental human right. They have been at it again in the past few days, denouncing and

distorting the modest proposals by Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor, to give UK citizens the kind of protection against invasions of their privacy as is enjoyed by other Europeans, and by Americans and Canadians.

In fact, the real objection to Lord Mackay's "consultation paper" is that it calls for "consultation" rather than action. It is a further delaying device by a government that does not have the guts to cause discomfort to the newspapers which promoted its election.

The Lord Chancellor proposes no more than a new cause for action in the county courts (for damages up to a mere £10,000) to compensate individual victims who have suffered "substantial distress" as a

result of harassment or molestation, or revelation of intimate personal details about health or family relationships. The victim must prove a "substantial distress" of a kind which would cause anguish to someone of ordinary robustness; this may be defeated by proof that the conduct aimed to serve the public interest.

These are moderate recommendations, although objections of principle can be made to their legal fine print. It is wrong to place upon defendants the burden of proving such "defences" as consent, lawful authority, and public interest. It should be for the plaintiff to show these considerations cannot justify the invasion of privacy - to show, for instance, that the public interest is not involved.

The only real danger to media freedom is the consultation paper's suggestion that pre-publication injunctions should be available on the "balance of convenience" basis appropriate for other torts. This approach is both unprincipled and petty-fogging: press stories should only be suppressed where there is no basis even for arguing that they could serve the public interest.

The worst feature of the consultation paper lies in its refusal to countenance any extension of legal aid. At present, legal aid is denied only for libel actions, originally on the ground that the poor should not be encouraged to bring their "over-the-fence" squabbles to court. The paper gives a wholly inaccurate justification for this unjust discrimination and concludes that the poor

should be as powerless to protect their privacy as they are to protect their reputation because "resources are very limited".

So they are, but if this tort is to have any deterrent effect on the huggers, eavesdroppers, data-defilers and dirty tricksters, it is absurd to confine the remedy to the rich. A belated recognition by the civil law of a right to privacy might be

thought to be the minimum step necessary to fulfil the promise of Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights. It will not be much used (most victims of privacy invasions do not wish to relive their experience in open court) but the occasional courageous plaintiff will set important precedents which will make data collectors, private detectives, and gutter journalists mind how they go.

The role of the newspaper industry in opposing and delaying a civil right to privacy is both contemptible and counter-productive. It has involved an expensive public relations exercise - originally by the Press Council and now by the Press Complaints Commission, which falsely claims to protect privacy by "voluntary self regulation".

The real danger to press freedom is that editors are behaving like the boy who cried "wolf". The Lord Chancellor's proposed remedy is, with some amendments, no danger to investigative journalism - unlike the draconian criminal privacy laws devised by Sir David Calcutt, or the statutory quangos recently threatened by parliamentary committees

and private members' bills. Acceptance of a civil remedy for invasion of privacy would end the clamour for these oppressive alternatives, and free editors from their obligations to trumpet, dishonestly, the virtues of the PCC.

They could instead point out that it is time for this government to stop "consulting" and to start legislating - not only to provide citizens with some legal protection to their privacy but to fulfil its alleged commitment to openness by a Freedom of Information Act and by reforms to the laws of libel and breach of confidence. The case for greater freedom of important speech becomes more compelling once it is conceded that some personal matters are important only to the private individuals they concern.

Geoffrey Robertson QC

The writer is the author of "Freedom, the Individual and the Law", the new edition of which will be published by Penguin Books next month.

OBSERVER



any mention in his column.

Soros's reputation for straight talking would be enhanced if he observed the same sort of rule.

Wygod's treasure

Meanwhile, another financier worth watching is Martin Wygod, who last week pulled off the \$6m sale of his nine-year-old company, Medco, to US drugs giant Merck. Wygod has done a good job building Medco into a market leader and deserves the near \$100m he will collect on his shares in Medco. But should he also get a special finders fee?

Back in 1984, it seems, his fellow directors agreed that Wygod would get 2 per cent of the consideration if the company were ever sold (they later cut this to 1 per cent). Such fees are standard among private companies in the US, but less common in public ones. Wygod's nice little earner has already caught the attention of the United Shareholders Association pressure group, and it would be surprising if it did not attract a law suit from a disgruntled shareholder focussing on possible conflicts of interest. The fact that Wygod has agreed to reinvest the fee in Merck shares is not good enough.

Cake walk

After the hamburgers come the doughnuts. Following the advances of McDonald's and Burger King in Poland, Warsaw cake-maker Blikle is on the way to franchising its indigenously famous brand name nationwide.

The expansion launched by company chief Andrzej Blikle, seconded by former Barclays de Zoete Wadd executive Piotr Piniński, crowns the company's 125 years of making and selling cakes in the centre of the capital. When the original shop was destroyed in the 1944 Warsaw uprising, the operation was moved next door and stayed open throughout communist rule. Five more shops are already in the offing. But the company boss

- whose son, Lukasz, is also in the business - says that while following the hamburger outlets' commercial strategy, he's not going to endanger Blikle's quality reputation by also following them too far down market. Whether that amounts to trying to have his cake and eat it, only time will tell.

Hot property

When Bill Hussey, well-known boss of Ghana's Asbanti gold mine, was picked to be operations director of the newly-formed Bakrychik Gold, he was surprised to learn that his new workplace might be hotter than his last.

After all, the arid North eastern steppes of Kazakhstan, where Hussey is being sent to develop a 9m oz gold mine, is considerably closer to the Arctic circle than Ghana. But Hussey's latest challenge also happens to be just 250km west of the former Soviet Union's nuclear test sites. However, it was a false alarm. According to Hussey's peeper counter, detectable radiation levels at his new mine are less than the World Health Organisation standards.

Dining out

Sign outside a Mexican restaurant in Richmond, Surrey: Come inside and try our Jurrasic Pork fajitas. Eat some now before they become extinct....

Belgium mourns death of king

The monarch's brother will succeed to throne, writes David Buchan

THE DEATH of King Baudouin has plunged Belgium into mourning and produced surprise over the choice of his successor.

The 82-year-old king, a devout Roman Catholic who briefly abdicated in 1990 rather than sign Belgium's law legalising abortion, died from a heart attack on Saturday while on holiday in Spain with his Spanish-born wife, Queen Fabiola.

After a cabinet meeting to discuss funeral and succession arrangements, Mr Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Belgian prime minister, yesterday flew to Spain to accompany the king's body back to Brussels.

Last night, the government announced that the king's 59-year-old brother Prince Albert of Liège would succeed to the throne and become the sixth king of the Belgians.

Up until the last minute the succession was open. Prince Albert is next in line for the throne but had been widely expected to renounce his right in favour of his 33-year-old son, Prince Philippe.

Philippe had been groomed as the heir apparent, but he is shy and unmarried. Talk that the throne might pass to his married sister, Astrid, was prompted by the 1991 change to the Belgian constitution allowing a woman to become monarch.

Belgium's proportional voting system and linguistic divide between French-speaking Wal-



King Baudouin: the bilingual monarch was seen as a unifying force

loons and Dutch-speaking Flemish give its monarchs more than just a figurehead role.

Belgian elections seldom throw up a clear winner, and it falls to the monarch to decide which party leader should try to form a coalition government. This must be linguistically as well as politically balanced.

King Baudouin played this role in an exemplary fashion. With the growing tendency of his countrymen to identify themselves as primarily Walloons or Flemish, or indeed Bruxellois, the bilingual monarch often came to be seen as the only real Belgian left holding the country

together.

He was clearly concerned at the outset of reforms which in recent years have devolved much political and economic power to the country's two regions - Flanders and Wallonia - and to its capital of Brussels. However, the king praised in his National Day address on July 21 this year "the democratic and peaceful way" in which Belgium had become a federal state.

He went on to argue forcefully for "a federal Europe", and his championing of European integration was yesterday praised by Mr Jacques Delors, the European Commission president.

But the tall, stooping, bespectacled Baudouin was often dubbed the "sad king" in a reign that got off to a shaky start. The standing of his father, Leopold III, never recovered from his controversial decision to stay with his people in May 1940 and surrender to the Germans, against the advice of his government which escaped to London. Faced with strikes and riots in Belgium, Leopold abdicated in 1951 in favour of his 21-year-old son.

Nine years later, Baudouin married Fabiola, a Spanish aristocrat, avoiding as his ancestors had done Belgium's linguistic jealousies by wedding a foreigner. But Fabiola suffered three miscarriages and they never had children.

In 1990, he said he could not in conscience sign a bill legalising abortion. To his critics, mainly on the left, who argued that the king had a duty to sign any bill which the parliament had passed, he wrote in an anguished letter to the parliament: "Does freedom of conscience apply to everyone except the king?"

In the event, the Belgian government allowed him to step down for a day so that the abortion bill could pass into law without his approval.

At the time, it was said the king's abdication-for-a-day would weaken permanently the monarchy's position. But most Belgians seemed to appreciate the king more after his moral gesture.

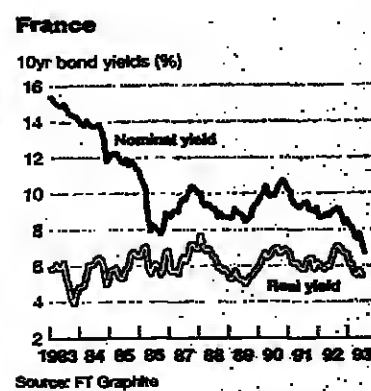
THE LEX COLUMN

A real test for bonds

The fashion for buying European bonds on the premise that yields would fall to German levels should finally be consigned to history. The notion relied on ERM bands remaining intact during a swift and painless transition to monetary union. If the troubled passage of the Maastricht treaty did not deal the mortal blow, the latest crisis within the ERM certainly should. But that need not rule out lower bond yields in Europe. Since sterling was forced out of the ERM last September, 10-year gilt yields have fallen by 1.75 percentage points.

Investors in French bonds would doubtless be wary of a policy mix which contained both lower interest rates and devaluation. But evidence from other industrial countries suggests recovery after such severe recession is unlikely to pose an inflationary threat. Long-dated French bonds might also benefit from a migration of savings out of money market funds in search of higher yield. If that helped smooth the progress of privatisation, so much the better.

The worry is that real yields have remained stubbornly high throughout this recession in France and in most other leading industrial countries. That could imply a floor under bond yields, unless inflation continues to fall from current very low rates. Since a large portion of the French economy is tied to bond yields through the mortgage market, recovery could suffer as a result. In earlier recessions, bond yields needed to fall below the rate of inflation before the economy started to respond. That looks impossible to achieve this time around, whether the franc is shackled to the D-Mark or not.



Source: FT Graphics

stock market expectations. The franc fort policy has inflicted severe damage on parts of the French economy as shown by the remorseless rise in unemployment to 11.6 per cent. French GNP may decline by as much as 1 per cent this year with corporate earnings slipping by 10 per cent. French industry has lost swathes of market share to competitors in soft currency countries. Domestic demand has been depressed by rising unemployment and high real interest rates. The fragility of the French banking system, largely reflecting the precarious state of the Paris property market, will prove a further restraint.

The French government has clearly demonstrated its intent to stimulate growth as a prelude to privatisation, but investors may have to wait a long time to reap the full rewards.

Building materials

The possibility of interest rate cuts across Europe is providing a further lag-up for the UK building material sector, which first shined up the drainpipe when sterling devalued last September. Many building material companies have a big exposure to Germany and France. The hope is that a turn in the economic tide will boost their earnings from the region.

But the picture is not as simple as it seems. The German construction market has been decoupled from the rest of the economy. The housing market, in particular, has remained resilient as the stream of immigrants continues and east Germans repair their leaky roofs. The likes of RMC and Redland, already benefiting from this strength. It is not clear that falling interest rates would make much difference.

By contrast, the French construc-

tion market appears to have slipped off the scaffolding. Housing starts are at their lowest level for 30 years while the rest of the construction market remains depressed. However, the government is attempting to resuscitate activity. Much of the proceeds of the Balladur bond will be sunk into construction. The complicating factor is that any realignment of currencies would also redraw the competitive map of Europe. UK companies would then lose some of their competitive edge. Pilkington, for example, would face greater pressure from St Gobain. With building materials companies already commanding fat premium valuations there is little headroom for more.

Electricity companies

Since Reuters has dignified the idea of handing excess capital back to shareholders, it is worth casting about for other possible candidates. Strong cash inflows, low debt or net cash and limited growth opportunities within a stable business are the main criteria needed. One group which clearly fits the bill is the regional electricity companies. By the time the important distribution review is completed next summer most will have minimal borrowing. They will also have dividend cover around 3 times, and annual cash flow per share averaging 112p. Already they are trading at a premium to net assets of about 50 per cent.

Such basic utility businesses should have much higher gearing and lower dividend cover. The electricity companies justify the excess equity on the grounds of diversification and regulatory risk. Yet the companies have not been over-endowed with credible diversification ideas. And even the most draconian tightening of the price cap next year would only make them cash neutral.

Besides, the regulator may take a dim view if the companies operate with too much equity and thus an unnecessarily high cost of capital. Far from waiting until after next year's review has established a medium-term regulatory framework, they may be wise to address the issue as part of that process. They could propose that they take on debt to finance a share buy-back for the benefit of shareholders, while customers might get a one-off lowering of electricity prices. Those boards which try to skate around the issue of excess capital for fear that they may get harsher treatment from Professor Littlechild are only deluding themselves.

G7 set for showdown with Moscow

by John Lloyd in Moscow and Edward Balls in London

THE Group of Seven industrialised countries and leading international financial institutions believe Russian reforms may not survive the present period of political uncertainty and are preparing for a showdown with the Russian government after the summer holiday season.

One diplomat in Moscow said yesterday: "The reformers in the cabinet presently look weak and isolated, unable to move." Mr Sergei Shakhrai, a deputy prime minister and a close aide to President Boris Yeltsin, yesterday said the basic institutions of authority were paralysed. "Rust is eating

out the body of the state."

A top G7 official, who said he was "gravely concerned", said last night: "We always recognised that Russian policy would go in fits and starts - and this is certainly a fit. But with proper policy from now on, this would not prevent the success of Russian reform and further western support."

At stake is the G7 aid of \$4bn, announced at the US-Russian summit in Vancouver in April and approved at the G7 Tokyo summit in July. Included in that figure is the second \$1.5bn tranche of a \$3bn International Monetary Fund loan and accelerated loans from the World Bank worth up to \$3bn in the next year. They are due to be decided

in September or soon after.

President Yeltsin, who returned early from a holiday a week ago, has made no public appearance or speech since then. Nor has he reacted to the urgent call by Mr Boris Fyodorov, the finance minister and the leading economic reformer in the cabinet, for the annulment of the central bank's decision to withdraw from circulation all pre-1993 cash roubles and for the sacking of Mr Viktor Gerashchenko, the central bank chairman.

The central bank's action caused chaos last week in Russia and in the majority of members of the Commonwealth of Independent States still in the rouble zone. Westerners fear about the course

of Russian reforms have been fuelled by the precariousness of the budget and the power struggle between Mr Yeltsin and parliament.

Officials from the G7 governments and the World Bank and IMF believe the budget proposed by Mr Fyodorov, which envisages a deficit of some Rb11,000 bn to Rb12,000bn, may fall victim to pressure from within the cabinet for extra spending, especially industrial aid.

One senior G7 official said: "I think both Fyodorov and Yeltsin have been the losers over this last week. By the time it comes to September and decisions have to be made, I think we could be looking at some very bad figures in the budget."

Christopher visits Mideast

Continued from Page 1

yesterday apart from one minor skirmish. But as civilians began returning to the south, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, leader of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah guerrilla group, pledged that the fighting would continue as long as Israel continued its occupation.

Mr Rafik al-Hariri, Lebanon's prime minister, said yesterday that the only way to remove the threat of Hizbollah was for Israel to commit itself to a full withdrawal from the south of his country. Once Israel did that then there would be no need

for a resistance force, he said.

But Mr Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's prime minister, was reported to have told a cabinet meeting yesterday that the so-called "security zone" in southern Lebanon had to be strengthened. He also claimed that Israel's week-long military action had created "a more propitious background for the renewal of the peace talks".

His view is not shared by Arab foreign ministers who on Saturday concluded a two-day meeting in Damascus at which they expressed their solidarity with Lebanon and promised \$600m to help repair war damage.

Border talks begin over the Bosnian republics

Continued from Page 1

member of Bosnia's collective leadership warned that the emerging ethnic division brokered by Lord Owen and Mr Stoltenberg would drive a further million people from their homes and reward aggression.

"If we accept the ethnic division of Bosnia, there will be an exodus of one million people," warned Mr Mirko Pejanovic.

In an effort to prevent the republic's carve-up, three mem-

bers of the Bosnian presidency joined opposition deputies in protest against what they saw as the west's abandonment of Bosnia.

"They painted a dark picture of betrayal and an uncertain future under 'fascist' ethnic minorities," they said.

"We have been confronted with a dictate from Lord Owen and Mr Stoltenberg to accept the proposal... because they want to wrap up the deal as quickly as possible," said Mr Miro Lazovic, speaker of the house.

FT WORLD WEATHER

Europe today

Europe will be dominated by high pressure areas which will bring plenty of sunshine with above normal temperatures in central and southern regions. Changeable weather will occur in northern and eastern sections. Much of the CIS will experience some showers and local thunder showers. In the extreme western CIS there will be frequent sunny spells but local thunder showers. Scandinavia will still be rainy and windy, particularly along the Norwegian coast. Afternoon temperatures will range between 19C-21C. Warm air over central Europe will spread toward the north boosting temperatures in northern France and Benelux. The Mediterranean will continue mostly sunny and very warm.

Five-day forecast

A series of low pressure areas will move across the British Isles to Scandinavia this week. As a result, the UK and Scandinavia will continue very unsettled with periods of rain. Meanwhile, central and southern regions will remain mostly dry with sunny spells. Temperatures will continue to remain above normal. Warm and moist air over north-eastern Spain will cause some severe thunder showers over France, the Benelux and Germany.

TODAY'S TEMPERATURES

Abu Dhabi	28	Paris	18	London	16	Madrid	24
Algiers	26	Rome	20	Manchester	14	Barcelona	26
Amsterdam	18	Sydney	22	Edinburgh	12	Seville	28
Athens	24	Tokyo	24	Geneva	16	Valencia	26
Bangkok	30	Hong Kong	28	Frankfurt	18	Malaga	28
Beijing	26	Osaka	26	Brussels	16	Palma	28
Bombay	30	Seoul	24	Lisbon	18	San Sebastian	26
Buenos Aires	20	Singapore	28	Nice	20	San Pedro de Macoris	26
Cairo	28	Taipei	26	Vienna	18	Santiago	20
Cape Town	22	Tel Aviv	28	Zurich	16	Medan	28
Caracas	26	Toronto	18				
Chicago	22						
Colombo	28						
Copenhagen	16						
Dakar	28						
Dallas	20						
Darwin	28						
Dhaka	28						
Dubai	30						
Durham	18						
Dublin	16						
Dubrovnik	20						
Edinburgh	12						
Farø	14						
Frankfurt	18						
Geneva	16						
Glasgow	14						
Hamburg	18						
Helsinki	14						
Hong Kong	28						
Honolulu	28						
Ile de Man	14						
Istanbul	20						
Jersey	16						
Karachi	28						
Kuwait	30						
La Paz	18						
Las Palmas	20						
Lisbon	18						
London	16						
Los Angeles	22						
Luxembourg	16						
Lyon	18						
Madrid	24						
Manila	28						
Maracaibo	28						
Melbourne	20						
Mexico City	20						
Miami	28						
Milan	18						
Montreal	18						
Moscow	14						
Murdoch	18						
Nairobi	28						
Naples	18						
Nassau	20						
New York	18						
Nice	20						
Nicosia	22						
Oglo	22						
Oslo	18						
Paris	18						
Perth	20						
Prague	16						
Rio de Janeiro	28						
Rangoon	28						
Reykjavik	14						
Riyadh	30						
Rome	20						
S' Francisco	18						
Seoul	24						
Singapore	28						
Stockholm	18						
Strasbourg	18						
Sydney	22						
Taipei	26						
Tel Aviv	28						
Tokyo	24						
Toronto	18						
Tunis	20						
Vancouver	18						
Venice	18						
Vienna	18						
Warsaw	16						
Washington	18						
Wellington	18						
Winnipeg	10						
Zurich	16						

Forecasts by Meteo Consult of the Netherlands

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INSIDE

IRI delays sale of SME unit

IRI, Italy's state holding company, will postpone until at least September the sale of Crio-Bertoli-De Rica (CDB), the canned food division of its food-stuffs group, SME. It claims the bids received are inadequate. Page 15

Banesto covers bad loans

Banesto, the Spanish commercial bank headed by Mario Conde (left), is to set aside Ptas2,400 (\$377m) of its 1993 first-half income against bad loans, reducing pre-tax profits to Ptas5,700, an 82.6 per cent drop on the 1992 first-half figure of Ptas33,000. Mr Conde announced in May that the bank would not be paying its final 1992 dividend and would transfer all its 1993 first-quarter income to bad loan provisions. Page 15

Medway Ports plans flotation

Medway Ports, the privatised trust port, is planning a stock market flotation probably for early next year. The Sheerness-based company has markedly increased profitability, despite flat turnover, since a £37m management and employee buy-out in March 1992. Page 14

Masoco poised for Spring Ram bid

Spring Ram, the troubled UK bathroom and kitchenware group, is to announce a bid approach by Masoco Corporation, the US building products group, Bill Rooney (left), Spring Ram's chief executive, has seen the company's share value plunge with three profits warnings during the last eight months. Page 14

Prospective p/e ratio

The latest prospective p/e ratio for the FTSE 100 of 500 industrial stocks for calendar 1993 is 14.6 according to IBES, the consensus estimates service (last week 14.0). This compares with an IBES estimated p/e for the "500" of 16.3 (1992) for calendar 1992. The official FT calculations for calendar 1992, based on the latest reported earnings, is 19.4 (19.00).

Market Statistics

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Asahi Glass	15	Northwest Airlines	15
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The battle for Gucci, the Italian luxury goods group, is like two shoppers fighting over an expensive bag at a Knightsbridge sale. Although outwardly genteel, they soon cast good manners aside as determination to prevent the other getting the prize overtakes any interest in the article itself.

That is the tug-of-war now taking place between Mr Maurizio Gucci, grandson of the man who founded the company in 1921, and Investcorp, the Bahrain-based merchant bank, with which he shares control.

In the middle is the famous brand, best known for its hand-crafted bags, shoes and leatherware. As the battle enters its second week and writs and counter-claims start to fly, it looks increasingly as if Gucci itself, like the squabbling over sale item, will come out worse for wear.

The company is no stranger to controversy. In the mid-1980s, Mr Gucci fought a bitter battle with some of his cousins, sons of the founder's three heirs, to streamline control.

"At the time, Gucci was a loosely run empire, in which ownership of many operations was fragmented between family fiefdoms, although my father owned 50 per cent stakes in everything," he said in an interview with the FT last week. In October 1990, the campaign was finally concluded when Maurizio Gucci won a high court injunction in London against his cousin Paolo, preventing him from using the Gucci name commercially.

The latest battle looks more serious. First, the stakes are much higher. Investcorp, which has started legal action in New York to force Mr Gucci out of office, paid an estimated \$170m to build up its 50 per cent holding - at the height of the luxury goods market.

Gucci has turned out to be a poor investment. Although classic products such as its famous loafers continue to sell well, group turnover dropped from a peak of £2,990m (£255m) in the year to January 31 1991 to £2,250m in each of the last two years. This year, sales are expected to recover marginally to £2,560m. Net losses deteriorated to £36m in 1991-92. Last year the deficit was cut, but still totalled £25m.

Haig Simonian on the fight for control of Gucci Leather under strain in a bitter tug-of-war



Maurizio Gucci: Investcorp has started legal action in New York to force him out of office

The picture is clouded by trading difficulties in the US. Gucci's biggest market outside Italy, Earnings at Gucci America have plunged because of recession and the shift away from ostentatious consumption. Losses rose to £28m last year and no turnaround is expected this year.

The second reason for acrimony is that Gucci, like some of the special skins from which its shoes and bags are made, is one of an increasingly rare breed of independent luxury goods marques. Unlike others, such as Dunhill or Louis Vuitton, it is not part of a big conglomerate. Although no longer entirely in the hands of a single founding family, as in the case of its rivals Prada and Ferragamo, ownership of the Gucci name is a prize worth fighting for.

Mr Beppe Modeoese, an Italian fashion guru, says he has never known a crisis as severe as that now facing famous manufacturers. Some smaller names may even go under. But provided the marques cut costs and reorganise, they should weather the storm.

Such strong action could be impossible given Gucci's present ownership structure, which splits power evenly between Mr Gucci and Investcorp. Mr Gucci says the gap between them is unbridgeable because of different views of what Gucci represents. He presents himself as a businessman, dedicated to upholding the company's traditional values, versus the cold-blooded financiers, who would sell their stake tomorrow for a turn. "Just look what they did with Tiffany," the US luxury goods brand bought

and subsequently floated by the merchant bank. Mr Gucci claims his ability to initiate a streamlining plan for the group is proof of his managerial skills. He says the reversal of the financial slide indicates his strategy of trimming the product lines, concentrating on higher margin items and reducing the number of outlets to restore the brand's lustre. "The number of items and stores has fallen, but Gucci has regained the up-market image that was in danger of being lost." He warns that a lengthy battle with Investcorp could return Gucci to the destructive state of the late 1980s, when, blocked by family wranglings, it failed to note warning signals in the market.

Mr Gucci's critics, who include not just Investcorp but Italian and Swiss bankers concerned

about the group's financial position, see things differently.

Investcorp says Mr Gucci is highly mercurial and has little business sense. They argue that he has failed to act on the business plan hammered out four years ago when Investcorp first became his partner. For example, they say, Mr Gucci has consistently failed "to present a budget which makes any sense or which could be passed by the board".

While he might make an ideal titular chairman or marketing chief, he is not the right man to run the company, especially in a deep recession.

The bank's most serious accusation is that he contravened the complex shareholding agreements between them. Typically, given Gucci's litigious history, the issue of the shareholding pact is highly complex and arcane. Broadly speaking, the pact gives either side the right of first refusal to its partner's shares.

Earlier this year, Mr Gucci faced unspecified financial problems, which required him to obtain a loan, thought to be of \$500m (£11m). A technical dispute over whether Mr Gucci pledged some or all of his shares in return for the money, since repaid, is at the heart of Investcorp's legal action. It claims it had the right to buy the shares from Mr Gucci before they were given as collateral.

Mr Gucci denies the shares were ever pledged to the bank. "I made use of all my resources" as collateral, he says. "But control of the shares was never given up, even for a second."

Mr Gucci has now offered to resolve the dispute by either buying out Investcorp's stake, or selling it his own holding. "Let's put our offers in two sealed envelopes. Whoever makes the higher offer wins."

However, the proposal is disingenuous. Within seconds of the proposal, he added: "But they can't expect me to pay the sort of price they want, and they can't imagine I'd be prepared to give all this up for the much smaller amount of money they think they can get it for."

In the meantime, decision-making at the group is paralysed as the battle shifts from the boardroom to the courts.

Deutsche Bank buys units from Treuhand

By Judy Dempsey in Berlin

THE Treuhand, the agency charged with restructuring and privatising eastern German industry, has sold a portfolio of businesses to Deutsche Bank, which will manage, restructure and ultimately attempt to sell them.

The sale represents a novel approach by the Treuhand, which has now sold more than 12,000 of the 14,000 enterprises under its control, though with some difficulty owing to Germany's economic downturn and the poor condition of some of the businesses.

Deutsche Bank, Germany's largest bank, has taken control of 13 enterprises, mostly in the construction and electrical sectors, through Deutsche Industrie Holding, a wholly owned subsidiary which specialises in eastern German investments.

DIH has agreed to guarantee 1,100 jobs and to invest more than DM50m (\$46.50m) in restructuring the enterprises in its portfolio. The sum paid to the Treuhand is undisclosed.

The construction enterprises include Leipzig Beton Union, Naumburger Kiewerke and Chemnitz Bauhoff.

The arrangement will allow the Treuhand to concentrate on privatising the most difficult of eastern Germany's remaining enterprises, including the brown coal fields, utilities, and the chemical sector.

Several scandals, involving abuse of funds, have dogged the Treuhand over the past two months. This led to the establishment of a new division charged with monitoring all contracts signed with the Treuhand since it was set up in 1990.

DIH, set up in November 1991 as part of Deutsche Bank's strategy of strengthening its position to the five new eastern states, has so far acquired stakes in enterprises totalling DM46m, and has committed DM74.2m of investments as well as guaranteeing 2,300 jobs in these companies.

Deutsche Bank itself has invested DM3.5bn in 349 branches in eastern Germany.

Deutsche officials say they expect returns on their investments to take several years, largely because eastern Germany has lost its markets in eastern Europe, the modernisation of the infrastructure is a lengthy process, and growing unemployment is reducing consumer spending.

Computer seller starts chain of UK 'superstores'

By Andrew Adonis in London

SPECIALIST Computer Holdings, one of the UK's largest independent computer sales companies, is about to launch a nationwide chain of computer superstores in the UK.

The private Birmingham-based group, with an annual turnover of more than £100m (£49m), plans to invest about £60m during the next two years on the venture, which it believes will transform the UK's PC market.

Three superstores, trading under the name "Byte" - The Computer Superstore - will be opened later this year - in Newcastle, Birmingham and the City of London. SCH plans to have up to 14 stores open by the summer of 1994. Their main competition will be from Dixons, which earlier this year bought four "PC World" superstores from Vision Technology Group for £25m.

Computer superstores are common in the US, but the concept has yet to catch on in the UK. SCH is gearing its stores particularly to small and medium-sized businesses, which it believes are ill-served by current dealer arrangements.

Mr Peter Rigby, SCH's chairman and principal shareholder, said: "barely 5 per cent of computer sales are currently through retail outlets; we believe it can reach 30 per cent fairly fast, expanding the market significantly in the process."

SCH expects about 70 per cent of sales to come from small and

medium-sized businesses, with a "small but growing" private consumer market.

The superstores, to be funded from retained profits, will mostly sell leading hardware and software brands such as IBM, Toshiba, Compaq, Apple, Microsoft, Lotus and Borland. They will also offer finance, training and maintenance packages.

Romtec, the market research company, expects that 27 per cent of PCs will be sold by a retailer by 1995, creating a retail

PC market almost as large as the entire UK PC market in 1990. "Retail will be the fastest growing PC distribution channel in the UK over the next three years," it said in a recent report, which predicted that superstores could account for more than 40 per cent of sales by 1995.

The Byte stores will be 16,000 sq ft or less - "recognising the difficulty of creating a personalised, service-oriented environment within an excessively large warehouse," said Mr Rigby.

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Last week's meeting of Asian and western foreign ministers in Singapore gave an unexpected boost to the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (Apec) forum, the four-year-old trade group revitalised by President Bill Clinton as part of his vision of a "new Pacific community".

By backing Apec, the ministers, whose talks were overshadowed by concerns about regional security, at least revived hopes that the world will be spared a round of intercontinental trade wars.

Most Asian members endorsed Mr Clinton's plan for an informal Apec summit in Seattle in November, while south-east Asian countries reached an uneasy compromise on the future of Apec's main rival, the proposed East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC).

The EAEC, an idea advocated by Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Malaysian prime minister, would exclude the so-called "white" countries - the US, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand - and has been dismissed privately by its opponents as racist. Dr Mahathir, on the other hand, believes that the US will seek to dominate Apec for its own selfish ends and that Asians must therefore stick together. He is the only Asian leader to have flatly turned down Mr Clinton's invitation.

Under the compromise, the EAEC will become a caucus within Apec, but will also be able to act independently. A catch-all solution which Mr Warao Christopher, the US Secretary of State, and many other delegates saying they were "puzzled".

The apparent rise of Apec, meanwhile, has been greeted with something approaching enthusiasm. Mr Goh Chok Tong, the Singapore prime minister, said he hoped it would be a "roaring success".

The significance of Apec - as distinct from other trade blocs - is that it spans two continents, Asia and America,

Trade rivalries calmed by Pacific message

which might otherwise regard themselves as trade rivals rather than partners. Its 15 members are the US, Japan, the "three Chinas" (China, Taiwan and Hong Kong), the six countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations or Asean (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand), Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Korea. At the Singapore meetings, an annual event hosted by Asean and attended by its main trading partners, the usual wagonloads of statistics were wheeled out to convince any remaining disbelievers

Economics Notebook By Victor Mallet

that Asia, Apec and Asean were important. Some of the figures were hardly surprising: Apec may account for about half the world's gross national product, but then it does cover more than half the globe and includes the US, Japan and China. The statistics emphasised the well-known growth of Asia-Pacific economies. Mr Christopher, for example, noted that last year's US trans-Pacific trade of \$325bn was three times the country's trade with Latin America and 60 per cent more than with western Europe.

A corollary of this is that Asia is getting richer. It is already evident, as Dr Mahathir realises, that many future disputes within Apec

will concern the western view that increased wealth means increased responsibility; on the environment and human rights as well as tariffs and trade. When, for instance, is a country like Thailand, which has based its export-led economic boom on cheap labour, judged rich enough to spend money on industrial safety? This issue is periodically raised by American labour unions and was taken up by the Thai press in May when about 200 workers, mostly women, were killed in a fire at a toy factory near Bangkok.

Mr Christopher declared that Asian countries had reached a level of technological development which enabled them to produce chemicals, sophisticated electronics and other items useful for chemical and biological weapons, and should therefore be prepared to sign agreements controlling the trade in such products.

An angry Mr Willy Claes, Belgian foreign minister and European Community president, wanted to know why Asian countries, which were so critical of Europe's performance in the former Yugoslavia, had not joined the Europeans in giving humanitarian aid. Other EC officials resisted having to pay aid to Cambodia, while the wealthy - and much nearer - Singaporeans held back. "They are not poor people," said one delegate.

Three-year peak for flotations

By Peggy Hollinger in London

UK FLOTATIONS have hit their highest quarterly levels for three years as venture capitalists and private companies seek to take advantage of the current vogue for equities among investors.

A report published today by brokers KPMG Peat Marwick shows that 43 companies came to the stock market between April and June against 16 last year, 20 in 1991 and 25 in 1990.

So far this year 59 companies have been listed, including two on the unlisted securities market, raising total funds of £1.1bn (£1.63bn). This is more than the \$289m raised in the whole of 1990, excluding introductions and adjusting for government privatisations and the Abbey National flotation.

Mr Neil Austin, KPMG's head of new issues, said the enthusiasm for new issues was likely to last until the autumn when worries over possible budget measures would begin to materialise.

The sharp rise this year had been fuelled by a number of factors, from the generally buoyant stock market to the opportunistic approach of venture and development capitalists. "With the renewed confidence in the economy and current level of the market, those that have been waiting in the wings are putting their plans into action," Mr Austin said.

Most companies coming to the market were small with market values of less than £20m. Mr Austin warned that, particularly in the light of the demise of the USM, this should make investors cautious.

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COMPANIES AND FINANCE

Medway Ports poised to float early next year

By Andrew Bolger

MEDWAY PORTS, the subject of a £37m management and employee buy-out last year, is preparing for a stock market flotation - probably at the beginning of next year.

Despite flat turnover because of recession, the Sheerness-based company has markedly increased profitability since the trust port was privatised.

For the 10 months to December, Medway made pre-tax profits of £3.5m on turnover of £25.2m. In the first six months of this year, pre-tax profits have jumped to £1.5m.

Mr Peter Vincent, chief executive, attributes this to "a traumatic process of coming into a new world. We had to change our cost base from fixed to variable."

This involved sharply reducing the number of the company's workforce who are employed on a permanent

basis from about 600 at the time of the buy-out to the current level of 270.

Catering and security were quickly contracted out, but Mr Vincent said the company still employed just as many people on some days - the difference was that men were hired from local contractors as and when needed.

He said: "We have moved from two-shift to three-shift working, giving round-the-clock coverage. We also have complete flexibility - an employee can be driving a fork lift truck one day and painting a buoy out in the harbour the next."

Sheerness avoided container and has instead concentrated on three distinctive markets - cars, fruit and forest products - where it can offer quality service. The company expects to receive full BS5750 accreditation by September.

Mr Vincent said traffic levels

were flat and rates had been squeezed, but nonetheless the company had made excellent progress.

It has appointed Charterhouse Bank to advise on a flotation, but does not rule out the possibility that it might be bought by a larger group.

Mr Vincent said: "If it was a safe pair of hands, we'd have to look at it very seriously. I see Medway as part of bigger group in the long-term, whether we build it up ourselves by acquisition or find a partner."

The buy-out was completed in March last year and financed by £20m of loans, £15m of preference shares and £2m of equity. Two-thirds of the workforce subscribed for shares. Mr Vincent said all existing workers are being granted options, so that they all have a stake in the flotation.

Spring Ram receives approach from Masco

By Peter John

SPRING RAM, the troubled bathrooms and kitchens group, will today announce a bid approach from Masco Corporation, one of the largest building products groups in the US.

The US company is one of half a dozen to have shown an interest in Spring Ram since it issued the first of three profits warnings eight months ago and its shareholder value began to plunge.

Talks between the two companies have not been followed up by any concrete offer and Spring Ram is not expecting one until after interim figures are released in late September.

Masco's interest has received added weight because of its choice of adviser. The Michigan-based group has picked Mr George Magan of the small merchant bank Hambro Magan and it was Mr Magan who has been advising British Aerospace over its recent merger talks with GEC.

Spring Ram's chief executive, Mr Bill Rooney, has resisted intense pressure from institutional shareholders, led by Prudential Corporation, to resign, as the company's share price has fallen from 181p over a year ago to 54p by the close on Friday. This has taken the market capitalisation down from £672m to £200m.

At last week's annual meeting, the company split the executive role and appointed Mr Roger Regan, a building industry veteran who had been approached by the rebel shareholders, as executive chairman. It retained Mr Rooney as chief executive.

An investment with the lure of gold

Kenneth Gooding on the flotation of a Kazakhstan mining venture

LONDON investors are being asked to provide £8m, and possibly £24m, for a gold mining venture in the newly independent republic of Kazakhstan, formerly part of the Soviet Union.

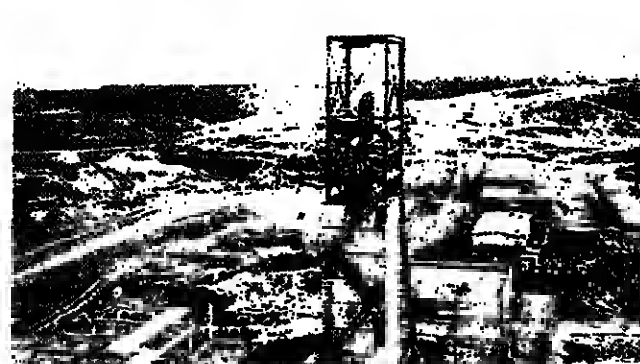
Stockbrokers Williams de Broe are to float Bakyrchik Gold on the London Stock Exchange by placing 7.5m shares at 120p each, which values the new company at about £18m.

The promoters suggest that this will be the only substantial "pure gold" company to be listed in London and that the flotation will provide "an early opportunity to invest in Kazakhstan."

Bakyrchik Gold (BK Gold) is jointly owned by Minproc, the Australian natural resources and engineering group, and Chilwech, a private company based in White Plains, New York, which claims to have 50 years' experience of trading with the former Soviet Union.

BK Gold last October signed a joint venture agreement with the Kazakhstan government to develop the Bakyrchik mine, one of the world's biggest gold deposits - it has total resources of 28.1m tonnes of ore containing 9.11 grams of gold a tonne - a total of 8m troy ounces. The estimated cash cost of production is \$120 an ounce, which would put it among the western world's lowest-cost mines.

Bakyrchik, located in an arid region of the north-eastern



Bakyrchik - projected to be among the world's lowest-cost mines

steppes of Kazakhstan, about 1,000km north of the capital, Almaty, was first opened in 1965. More than 6,000 people in the local town of Auezov are supported by the mine including 1,000 directly employed at a cost equivalent to \$3,000 a year for staff and \$2,000 a year for manual workers.

BK Gold holds 40 per cent of the joint venture and has management control. It says the infrastructure, shaft and mine development for a large-scale operation are essentially in place, and the directors estimate it would cost \$150m in today's money to duplicate this structure. But they suggest western capital and technical help is needed to bring the mine to its full potential.

The Bakyrchik mine geology and ore characteristics are complex, and this could lead to difficult conditions in parts of

stan's central bank for US dollars. The government wants to establish a Kazakhstan currency and to increase national annual gold output from the present estimated 12 tonnes to support it. If the bank fails to pay, the mine can export gold.

BK Gold says the second stage of mine development would go ahead only when the directors were satisfied "as to the adequacy of the operational procedures, mining methods and metallurgical processes, the availability of funding and the status of the political situation."

If the go-ahead is given, probably not before the autumn of 1994, BK Gold would raise another £75m to increase output at the mine to 1m tonnes of ore and 230,000 ounces of gold a year.

The company will be entitled to 75 per cent of net operating income until all the funds invested have been repaid, falling then to 40 per cent. The joint venture will pay no tax on the first five years of profits and then half the applicable rate (currently 25 per cent) for the following five years.

BK Gold's chief executive is Mr Kevin Foo, a metallurgical engineer who heads Minproc's office in Colorado, US. The operations director is Mr Bill Hussey, a mining engineer and formerly general manager of the Ashanti gold mine in Ghana. He has already moved to Kazakhstan.

See Observer

BAT shows interest in Seita

By Norma Cohen, Investments Correspondent

BAT Industries, the Anglo-American tobacco and insurance group, would consider taking a majority stake in the tobacco operations of Seita, the French state-owned tobacco monopoly, following its privatisation.

"If the tobacco business was to become free standing and we could acquire a majority stake - which it is not at all clear we could - then we might be interested," BAT said.

BAT would not be interested

in acquiring the non-tobacco interests of Seita and would be interested only in acquiring a controlling stake. Also, it is not clear what form the privatisation of Seita will take. If it took the form of a public flotation, BAT would be unlikely to be able to acquire a sufficient stake at a reasonable price, the company said.

BAT was responding to suggestions in a press interview with its chairman, Sir Patrick Sheehy, that the company would be interested in returning to the UK tobacco market. "France is one of the largest tobacco markets in Europe. It

is of rather greater interest to us than Britain," he said.

BAT has tried unsuccessfully to penetrate the French market, which is dominated by Seita. Seita is estimated to control 80 per cent of all French tobacco distribution, and it has been difficult for foreign companies to gain a toehold in that market. BAT has only a small operation, BAT France, which has a negligible market share.

Recently, BAT agreed to swap some of its brands with rival American Brands, and in the process acquired that company's Lucky Strike and Pall Mall businesses there.

Amber Day denies split over board appointment

By Norma Cohen

THE ENTIRE board of Amber Day, the UK discount retailer, supports the search for a chief executive from outside the company. Mr Stacey Ellis, chairman, said yesterday.

The board has decided that Mr David Thompson, finance director and a board member himself, is not likely to be a suitable candidate for the post despite support for him within the company.

Mr Ellis was denying weekend press reports that a split among the board members had emerged over Mr Ellis's support for one of the candidates currently under consideration.

The company yesterday confirmed that Mr Paul Taylor, formerly a senior executive at House of Fraser and now at US-based clothing retailer, Leslie Fay, is one of the candidates, although reports that Mr Ellis favours him above any others are

untrue. It added that Mr Taylor was only one of two or three external candidates and no decision had yet been made.

The company said that Mr Ellis would not try to force a candidate on the board which other members were unhappy about. The board members are said to have been concerned that Mr Taylor's expertise is in the upper end of the clothing market and that he has insufficient experience in discounted merchandise.

Heron gains court approval for refinancing

Heron International, Mr Gerald Ronson's property group, has won approval for its £1.4bn refinancing plan from the High Court in London.

The plan has already been ratified in Heron's two other jurisdictions - the Netherlands and Netherlands Antilles - and has been approved by a substantial majority of creditors.

However, before the refinancing can go ahead, Heron faces an appeal this week against ratification in Netherlands Antilles from creditors claiming unpaid debts of \$42m.

CROSS BORDER M&A DEALS

BIDDER/INVESTOR	TARGET	SECTOR	VALUE	COMMENT
News Corporation (Australia)	HutchVision (Hong Kong)	Satellite TV	\$350m	Murdoch beats Pearson
AEI Music Network (US)	Units of SET (UK)	Music services	£18m	Cash disposal
Warner-Lambert (US)/Wellcome (UK)	Joint venture	Pharmaceuticals	n/a	Major work for sector...
Warner-Lambert (US)/Glaxo (UK)	Strategic alliance	Pharmaceuticals	n/a	Further alliance likely
Ingersoll-Rand (US)	Unit of Kugelfischer (Germany)	Engineering	n/a	Expanding European interests
Avanti Press (US)	Unit of BCE (Canada)	Printing	n/a	BCE non-core disposal
MBO team (US)	Unit of Philips (Netherlands)	Defence electronics	n/a	Philips completes sector withdrawal
Euroko (Netherlands)/UK/Danmark/Sweden	Celtic International (Ireland)	Insurance	n/a	Acquiring entire capital
Coats Visteal (UK)	Lone Star Die Casting (US)	Engineering	n/a	Buy through Dynacast arm
Arvin Industries (US)	Way Assauto (Italy)	Vehicle components	n/a	Strengthening European presence

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FINANCIAL TIMES

INVITATION

For expression of interest in acquiring the stock of ELEVME S.A. in MEVIO S.A. - MINING AND INDUSTRIAL MINERALS.

In line with the Greek government's privatisation programme, ELEVME S.A. (Currently under liquidation), as major shareholder in MEVIO S.A. - MINING AND INDUSTRIAL MINERALS, intends to sell its stock in that company.

SUMMARY PRESENTATION OF MEVIO S.A.

The company was established in 1981 with the purpose of prospecting, exploiting, processing and marketing all kinds of minerals and products derived therefrom, acting directly or on behalf of third parties. In addition, the company may participate in other companies or operations with similar or related objectives.

The share capital of the company amounts to Dr 500,503,000 78.71% of which is held by ELEVME S.A. and 21.29% by NIDIS S.A.

The company is now active in the production and marketing of:

- Feldspar
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- Silica sand
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1992 in Dr

Total Assets	635,398,588
Net Worth	552,586,533
Turnover	21,610,044
Net results as at 31.12.92 (Profit)	3,639,394

PROCEDURES

- In phase 1, interested parties are invited to submit in writing their non-binding expressions of interest within twenty (20) days.
- In phase 2, potential buyers should express their interest not later than 23rd August 1993.
- In phase 3, ELEVME S.A. will supply interested parties with an offering memorandum describing the securities and operation of MEVIO S.A. Prior to this, potential buyers must sign a confidentiality agreement with ELEVME.
- Following the completion of phase 3, potential buyers will be invited to submit their binding offers, accompanied by a bank guarantee, details of which will be given in the bid invitation.

For any further information, interested parties may apply to the liquidators of ELEVME at 14, Kifissias Avenue, 151 25 Marousi, Greece. Tel: +30-1-684 3520 Fax: +30-1-684 3537 or to MEVIO S.A. P.O. Box 11192, 541 10 Thessaloniki, Greece. Tel: +30-56-61576 Fax: +30-56-61656 Attn: Mr. U. Anastasiadis.

IFV Power Company, Copenhagen

IFV - Energy Ltd

£5,000,000.000

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Interest period from: 1.1.1993

Interest period to: 1.1.1994

Interest Amount per £100,000.000 nominal due 1.1.1994: £2,078,632

Agent Bank: The Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan, Limited, Tokyo

CHEMICAL NEW YORK CORP

US\$ 300,000,000 FLOATING RATE SENIOR NOTES DUE 1999

In accordance with provisions of the Notes, notice is hereby given that for the interest period from 30 July 1993 to 31 August 1993 the Notes carry an interest rate of 5% per annum.

The interest payable on the relevant interest payment date 31 August 1993 against coupon no 105 will be US\$ 48.67 per US\$ 10,000 Note.

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- Supplies checklists so you avoid common mistakes when registering
- Provides sample registration forms and letters to obtain the relevant authorisations
- Lists addresses and contact details of key agencies in Moscow

Much of this information is simply unavailable elsewhere and will be of real practical everyday use to anyone intending to do business in Russia, as well as legal, financial, accounting and other advisors.

The Guide to Registering Companies in Moscow is available exclusively from Financial Izvestia - to order your copy, see below.

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 (Coupon No. 18)
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 (Variable Coupon Numbers)
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Shareholders in the Fund are advised that payment of a dividend of US\$2.00 per share for the year ended 31st March, 1993, has been approved by the Annual General Meeting held on 30th July, 1993.

Coupon number 24 on bearer share certificates will be paid on presentation at the offices of the Paying Agents on and after 6th August, 1993. Cheques will be posted to holders of registered shares on that date.

Copies of the Report and Financial Statements of the Fund for the year ended 31st March, 1993, are available at the registered office of the Fund and at the offices of the Paying Agents.

Curacao 2nd August, 1993 By order of the Board of Management

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IRI postpones disposal of SME canned foods unit

By Robert Graham in Rome and Ian Rodger in Zurich

IRI, Italy's state holding company, will postpone until at least September the sale of Cibo-Bertolli-De Rica (CBD), the canned foods division of its foodstuffs group, SME. It claims the bids received are inadequate.

The IRI board approved on Thursday the disposal of its 62 per cent stake in SME's frozen and baked goods division, Finitelgel, for L437bn (\$273.5m) to Nestlé, the world's largest food group.

Finitelgel's main subsidiary, Italgel, is the second-largest group by sales of frozen foods and ice cream in the Italian market after Unilever, while its Gruppo Dolcinaro Italiano makes cakes.

Nestlé has a big presence in

several food sectors in Italy, but none in ice cream or frozen foods. The purchase would give it a 27 per cent stake in the ice cream market and 15 per cent in frozen foods.

The failure to find a suitable buyer for CBD represents a setback after a smooth start for debt-burdened IRI's privatisation programme.

Among those bidding for CBD, which has the best-known brand names in Italy's canned goods sector, was Unilever.

The IRI board reportedly felt the final offers were from bidders interested only in parts of the business. There has been strong union pressure to keep CBD intact to preserve jobs, especially in southern Italy.

IRI is likely to begin talks with the final bidders, as well as those who had pulled out,

such as Parmalat and Eridania Beghin Say.

It hopes to establish which group wants to buy specific parts of CBD and ensure the benefit of the break-up price is retained.

Nestlé had long been a front-runner to buy Finitelgel. Analysts said the deal would significantly raise the size and profitability of the Swiss group's ice cream and frozen foods divisions. Nestlé said it aimed to develop some Finitelgel brands in other European countries.

The deal values Finitelgel shares at L1,550 each. On this valuation, the whole company, with brand names such as Ale-magna and Motta, is worth L700bn. Nestlé estimates Finitelgel sales will reach the equivalent of SF900m (\$596m) this year.

Banesto slides as provisions take toll

By Tom Burns in Madrid

BANESTO, the Spanish commercial bank, is putting aside Ptas5.4bn (\$377m) of its 1993 first-half income to provisions, a 218 per cent increase on its allocation for bad loans in the first six months of last year.

The dramatic increase brought pre-tax profits down to Ptas7.7bn, an 82.6 per cent drop on the 1992 first-half figure of Ptas33bn. Banesto did not release a first-half net profit figure.

The strict savings policy had been outlined by Mr Mario Conde, chairman, to shareholders in May, when he announced the bank would not be paying its final 1992 dividend and would transfer all its 1993 first-quarter income to bad loan provisions.

The move is understood to stem from advice given to Banesto's board by the US investment bank J.P. Morgan, which is masterminding a rights issue and an international share placement designed to improve the Spanish group's weak capital base.

Banesto claims some 75 per cent of the rights issue has been subscribed with a week's trading to go. The demand puts the group on course to raise some Ptas2.6bn in what is the first tranche of the three-part capital-raising plan drawn by J.P. Morgan.

In the second tranche, Banesto will place 22.2m shares, priced at Ptas1,900 each against a current market price of just over Ptas2,000. The placement is with a group of investors including Mr Conde and several US institutions that have joined J.P. Morgan's \$1bn Cor-sair fund. The third stage of the capital-raising venture involves a \$400m convertible bond which could be issued this autumn.

The high first-half provisioning comes despite improved business in the second quarter of this year. Mr Conde said earlier this month that fee commissions in April-June realised Ptas10.5bn, 11.5 per cent up on the first quarter of last year. Average monthly borrowing on the interbank market had been reduced to Ptas36.6bn last month from Ptas57.9bn in May.

Banesto's provisions now cover 66 per cent of bad debts, against 46 per cent at the end of 1992, a ratio which is still low when set against standards in the Spanish banking sector. These come close to 100 per cent coverage of non-performing loans.

Aetna cautious despite advance

By Karen Zagor in New York

AETNA Life & Casualty, one of the largest US composite insurers, turned in improved results for the second quarter. However, it said earnings remained unsatisfactory.

For the three months to June 30, it posted net income of \$146.1m, or \$1.32 a share, compared with a loss of \$45.2m, or 41 cents, a year earlier.

Operating earnings before extraordinary items were \$150.8m, against a deficit of \$73.1m a year earlier.

Mr Ronald Compton, chairman, said results from core

businesses were on track with expectations, but that company results continued to reflect unfavourable conditions in commercial real estate markets.

The Hartford, Connecticut-based company said its commercial property and casualty insurance services earned \$35m in the quarter, against an underlying loss of \$25m last year, before a \$24m reorganisation charge. Catastrophe losses narrowed to \$5m in the latest quarter, from \$11m.

Aetna's financial services business recorded net income of \$17m in this quarter, com-

pared with a loss of \$22m before reorganisation charges of \$4m a year earlier.

The personal property-casualty services turned in net income of \$12m, against \$6m the previous year, before reorganisation charges of \$30m.

For the first half, net income rose to \$338.7m, or \$3.07, against earnings of \$73.5m, or 66 cents, a year earlier. Excluding extraordinary items and the impact of adjustments, income from continuing operations rose to \$290.1m from \$81.3m. Revenues eased to \$8.62bn from \$8.78bn.

Japan bails out credit group

By Robert Thomson in Tokyo

THE JAPANESE government is to provide ¥100bn (\$1.6bn) to help restructure an Osaka credit co-operative. The move is another sign of official concern about deteriorating public confidence in some smaller financial institutions.

Osaka Fumiki Credit Co-operative, with an estimated ¥56bn in non-performing loans, is to be absorbed by another credit co-operative in the region, Osaka Kogyo. It is the first co-operative to receive assistance from the Deposit Insurance Corporation, which insures individual deposits up to ¥10m.

The co-operatives are due to merge in November, and the ¥56bn in problem loans will be transferred to the Osaka Soci-

ety of Credit Co-operatives, which will buy them for ¥35bn.

Osaka Fumiki was heavily exposed to the property market, and to the trading house-turned-speculator Itohan, which itself has been taken over by the Sumitomo group.

The use of government funds, which the DIC said was necessary to "maintain the soundness of the financial system", follows similar assistance to the ailing Kansai Shinkin Bank. The bank is to be liquidated later this year.

It is understood that about 11 shinkin - small local banks - are receiving assistance from the DIC, which bank, Zenkoku.

There has also been a rush of mergers among credit co-operatives, which are suffering from a lending hangover and an increase in company bankruptcies.

The smaller financial institutions have faced increased competition from Japan's larger commercial banks, whose share of consumer credit has risen to 36.9 per cent in 1991 from 14.6 per cent in 1987.

In an attempt to attract customers, some smaller institutions offered higher interest returns, increasing their costs.

The pressure on small, regional institutions is particularly severe because of close ties to companies in their local area.

This has tempted some to continue lending to these old clients even if their business prospects had deteriorated.

With larger banks wary of taking on new branches, the government is having to bear an increasing amount of the bail-out burden.

Takeover saves Peoples Jewellers

By Robert Gibbons in Montreal

PEOPLES Jewellers, Canada's highest jewellery chain, has been saved through a last-minute takeover by its chairman Mr Duff Scott, a Toronto businessman and former head of the Toronto Stock Exchange. He is backed by the Bank of Nova Scotia.

A new company headed by Mr Scott is taking over Peoples' assets, including about 200 stores and involving about 1,500 jobs. The founding Gerstein family will end all connections with Peoples.

A wing of the Gersteins blocked a financial restructuring of Peoples last Thursday, forcing the Ontario court to put it into bankruptcy. On Friday, the bank and Mr Scott reached agreement on a C\$70m (\$55.7m) takeover with court approval.

The bank, owed more than C\$100m by the old Peoples, is financing the purchase by the new company and has extended a new \$30m line of credit.

About 12 stores have been shut, but the rest will remain in operation. The defeat of the old restructuring, however, means common shareholders and unsecured creditors will not get their money back.

Northwest restructuring continues to hit profits

By Richard Waters and Karen Zagor in New York

NORTHWEST Airlines, the fourth-largest US carrier, suffered a \$155.2m after-tax loss for the second quarter, after taking a charge of nearly \$100m linked to its financial restructuring.

However, Mr John Dasburg, president, said the restructuring had resulted in new agreements with labour unions and financial accords which "substantially reduce our operating costs and restructure our debt and other financial commitments to manageable levels".

The company now had one of the most competitive cost-structures of all US airlines, he said.

3M up slightly at \$331m

3M, the US manufacturer of adhesives, magnetic tapes and other industrial and consumer products, turned in second-quarter net income of \$331m, or \$1.51 a share, writes Karen Zagor.

A year earlier, it earned \$317m, or \$1.45. Sales were essentially flat at \$3.64bn, up from \$3.62bn.

Mr L. D. DeSimone, chairman, said the company expected higher earnings for the

year as a whole, in spite of a difficult economic environment and unfavourable currency translations. Like many other companies, 3M is finding Europe a particularly challenging market.

For the first half, net income was \$661m, or \$3.02, on sales of \$7.06bn, against earnings of \$623m, or \$2.83, on sales of \$6.96bn. In the 1992 period, 3M took charges of 2 cents a share for accounting changes.

Qantas chief to resign

MR John Ward, chief executive of Qantas Airways, is to resign this month, ending speculation about his role at the Australian carrier after the arrival of British Airways as a major shareholder. Reuter reports from Sydney.

Mr Ward, chief executive since 1989, said he had decided to resign for a "whole host of reasons", but denied the decision had anything to do with British Airways. Speculation about Mr Ward's future emerged after it was revealed he had not backed the idea of a foreign carrier taking a big stake in Qantas.

His position will be filled in the short term by chairman Mr Gary Pemberton.

US aerospace head to retire

MR Gerald Johnston, president and chief operating officer of McDonnell Douglas, the US aerospace group, plans to retire at the end of this year, Reuter reports.

Mr Johnston, 62, said although his health had improved since his return to work last October from a serious illness, he could not give the job as much as he used to.

Sales decline hurts result at Asahi Glass

By Robert Thomson

ASAHI Glass, the leading Japanese maker of glass products, reported an 11.7 per cent fall, to ¥20.05bn (\$190m), in pre-tax profit for the first half to June. It blamed the result on falling sales of glass and construction materials along with private construction orders in Japan.

Sales for the period were down 0.7 per cent to ¥484.4bn, compared with a year earlier, with core glass and construction material sales down 2.4 per cent. Those of electronics

equipment were 15 per cent higher.

Asahi Glass is a leading supplier of glass bulbs for televisions, demand for which has been in decline for the past three years. However, the company is continuing to expand its own electronics operations, which now account for 5 per cent of sales, including magnetic disks and optical fibres.

"It seems that a business recovery will require more time," Asahi Glass said.

For the full year to the end of December, the company is forecasting a 0.8 per cent

increase in sales, to ¥1,020bn, and a 2.4 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to ¥41bn.

● Oji Paper, one of Japan's two biggest paper makers, is divesting production of certain quality coated papers to meet monopolies requirements ahead of its planned merger in October with Kanazaki Paper, which ranks seventh in the industry, writes Gordon Cramb in Tokyo.


Oji said it was transferring production facilities and marketing rights for two types of specialist paper, used for magazine and book covers, to

Chunetsu Pulp and Paper, in which Oji is the biggest shareholder with 7.6 per cent.

A final sale to Chunetsu, the 12th biggest paper maker, would take place after three or four years.

The shuffling of assets forms part of a consolidation in the industry brought on by overcapacity, which has triggered a spate of mergers.

In April, Jujo Paper and Sanyo-Kokusaku Pulp united to become Nippon Paper Industries, with which the Oji-Kanazaki combine will vie for top slot.



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In accordance with the provisions of the Notes, notice is hereby given that the Rate of Interest for the three month period ending 31st October, 1993 has been fixed at 7.4375% per annum. The interest accruing for such three month period will be ECU 94.00 per ECU 1,000.00 Bearer Note, on 29th October, 1993 against presentation of Coupon No. 6.

Union Bank of Switzerland
London Branch Agent Bank

28th July, 1993

WORLD TEXTILES

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INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL MARKETS

INTERNATIONAL BONDS

Chinese issue highlights hunger for extra yield

THE hunger of US bond buyers for extra yield remains undiminished. That is the message from the continuing stream of "firsts" to hit the US bond markets: recent days have seen the first offering by a Chinese issuer, and the first 100-year corporate bonds to be sold for 40 years.

With the yield on US Treasuries back near historic lows at the end of last week, investors seem ready to consider anything that offers a decent yield premium. Last week's \$250m issue from China International Trust and Investment Corporation (Citic) spoke volumes about the new spirit of adventure among US bond investors.

A year ago, the issuer - a government-owned entity which finances joint ventures in China - would have been lucky to get a hearing in the market. Last week investors were prepared to give the Baa1/ triple-B rated Citic 10-year money at a yield spread of only one percentage point over Treasuries, around a quarter of a percentage point lower than had been anticipated.

The fact that the size of the issue was raised from \$150m to \$250m said a lot about the strength of demand - even though there is little opportunity for investors to benefit from the sort of spread-narrowing which made early buyers of Latin American bonds rich.

Investors who felt uncomfortable with the political risk in Chinese

bonds have had the opportunity instead to lend to such comfortably familiar borrowers as Walt Disney, a rare issuer of straight bonds, and Coca-Cola. The twist: they won't get their money back for 100 years.

To many corporate treasurers and fixed-income investors, such long-dated instruments seem difficult to justify. For investors, there is the perceived risk of lending to companies which simply may not be around in 100 years.

Mickey Mouse and Coca-Cola may seem immortal today, but the Marlboro price cut this year has shaken investors' confidence in the longevity of premium-priced brands.

For treasurers, such long-term money raises different issues. Few, if any, can claim to have assets with such ultra-long lives against which to match the liability.

Why pay a premium over normal long-dated borrowing, however small that premium may seem? And how can they justify a move which has implications which stretch way beyond their company's planning horizon?

Walt Disney, whose characters are deeply engrained in the American psyche, probably has as much of a case as any for the durability of its assets. Mr Steve Schoch, assistant treasurer, says the Disney name and cartoon characters provide the long-term underpinning for the company. "Those characters

have had 50 or 60 or 70 years' life already, with increasing popularity around the world. There is no reason to expect that to fade," he says.

Disney's \$300m issue carries a yield of 96 basis points over Treasuries, while Coca-Cola's \$150m deal was launched at an 80 basis point spread. Such debt looks attractive compared with other components of a company's long-term capital. The 7.5 per cent coupon on the Disney bonds (issued at par) is equivalent to an after-tax cost to the company of less than 5 per cent, says Mr Jim Pelgrift of Morgan Stanley. With expectations of long-term inflation at between 3 per cent to 4 per cent, that leaves a negligible real cost of capital.

For investors, the argument for buying such debt is simple: extra yield. Treasury yields at all maturities are at historic lows, forcing so-called "total return funds" to look for extra returns elsewhere.

And though the 100-year maturity looks scary, the duration of the ultra-long dated bonds (that is, their average life, when all future cash flows are discounted back to present value) is only a little higher than a conventional 30-year bond.

That is because the yield premium in the early years, in present value terms, makes up for much of the long-term cashflow. The Disney bonds have a duration of 13.7 years, while Coca-Cola's are just over 14

years, compared with just under 13 years for a 30-year bond. This extra duration, and the yield premium, are a way for investors to gear up their exposure to the long end of the bond market.

Perhaps surprisingly, given the popularity of the Citic and 100-year issues, yield spreads on conventional corporate bonds have not been driven lower by the hunt for higher returns. The spread on a typical 10-year bond issue from a double-A credit is around 40-50 basis points, much the same as it has been for some time.

The reason may be the sheer volume of bond issuance in the market this year. In the first three months, US companies raised a record amount through straight bond issues, a level which was almost matched in the second quarter.

The supply of new junk (sub-investment grade) bonds followed a similar pattern. The yield on the Merrill Lynch junk bond index at the end of last week was hovering around 400 basis points above Treasuries - back to its level of the late 1980s, before the crash that sent yield spreads out to more than 900.

There is some \$22bn of new junk bonds in the pipeline, says one analyst - nearly as much as the total issued so far this year.

The deluge of bonds has helped Wall Street brokers' houses report record results this year. Underwrit-

ing fee levels have held steady, at around 40 basis points, having fallen to that level from 60 basis points some 18 months ago, says Mr Guy Moskowitz, an analyst at Sanford C. Bernstein.

The Wall Street houses may never have it so good again. Commercial banks, with little in the way of loan growth to look forward to, have been eyeing the corporate bond market for some time.

The five that had already won dispensation from the Federal Reserve to underwrite and trade bonds - J.P. Morgan, Bankers Trust, Citicorp, Chase Manhattan and Chemical - were joined last week by a sixth, NationsBank.

The ambitious North Carolina-based "super-regional" made its intentions clear earlier this year when it hired Mr John Griff, formerly head of syndicate for Lehman Brothers, to set up and run its bond department.

Its natural customers are not the large corporations which have the easiest access to the public debt markets. "We hope to open up to the market to medium-sized companies," NationsBank said.

The arrival of the commercial banks makes it likely that, come the next underwriting boom, Wall Street will not have things all its own way.

Richard Waters

RISK AND REWARD

Franco-German futures link raises fears of exclusivity



Last week's announcement of the terms of the planned linkage between Germany's Deutsche Terminbörse and France's Matif did little more than fill in the details sketched out in the memorandum of understanding signed by the two futures exchanges last December.

However, the move has broader implications, both for the exchanges themselves and for the futures industry as a whole.

The announcement silenced persistent rumours that the exchanges had run into substantial difficulties in fleshing out the terms of their memorandum. Futures market participants tend to be sceptical about talk of alliances between exchanges, and not without reason, since most previous attempts have failed.

The DTB/Matif effort, however, not only seems to have a brighter future than most, but also has an unusually broad scope. Both exchanges reject the use of the word "merger", and insist that each exchange will remain independent. The agreement "is an evolutionary process", according to a DTB official.

However, the possibility that both will one day allow each other's members to have access to all products suggests the creation of a self-contained unit for trading French and German products, which could pose a serious competitive threat to other exchanges. But both exchanges say they may admit other exchanges.

In addition to the first phase of the link - DTB screens will be available in France for trading selected products and Matif members will be able to trade DTB products via DTB clearing members by mid-1994 - which was already broadly known, the details of the second phase have also now been thrashed out.

The Matif has agreed to pay on an undisclosed sum for the DTB's software, and two Matif products will be listed on the system and will cease to be traded on open outcry by the end of 1995. The Matif's key product, the 10-year French government bond contract, will continue to be traded in the pit, so the

change will also prove an important test for screen-trading.

Mr Roger Barton, head of business development at the London International Financial Futures & Options Exchange (Liffe) said the fact that two Matif products would cease to be traded on the exchange floor could "present a business opportunity" for Liffe to trade the products on its floor instead. It remains to be seen which users would prefer, although many still say they favour pit-trading.

What is certain is that the Matif/DTB link will do nothing to ease the tensions which have sprung up in the increasingly competitive derivatives market. In the past decade, 18 derivatives exchanges have started up in Europe, winning market share from the once all-powerful US exchanges.

However, many observers believe that, despite the explosion of derivatives activity, expected to continue for several years as more over-the-counter business underpins futures trading, a mature market will not be large enough to support this number of exchanges. In particular, if some sort of European monetary union ever goes ahead, the current number of 88 different futures and options contracts traded on Europe's exchanges, excluding options on individual shares, will shrink dramatically.

The new focus on forging links with other exchanges to ensure survival may have a knock-on effect on the prospects for Globex, the after-hours futures trading system developed by the Chicago Board of Trade, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and Reuters. The ardour of Europe's futures exchanges for joining the system appears to have dimmed since the launch of Globex just over a year ago.

Mr Gary Ginter has resigned his position as managing director of Globex. Mr Ginter was responsible for developing a business plan focusing on marketing CME and CBOE products listed on Globex outside the US. He has left Globex to take a position as president of the board of directors and director of strategic planning for Oster Communications, the Iowa-based derivatives information group.

Tracy Corrigan

NEW INTERNATIONAL BOND ISSUES

Borrower	Amount m.	Maturity	Coupon %	Price	Yield %	Launch spread bp	Book runner
US DOLLARS							
Essex Cement, Ind. (Ind.)	85	Aug. 1998	5.5	100	-	-	Merrill Lynch Intl.
Menara Co. (Mal.)	180	Aug. 1997	1.375	100	-	-	Nikko Europe
Columbus Discovery (H.K.)	27	Jul. 1996	(f)	100R	-	-	Salomon Brothers Intl.
Gota Bank (H.K.)	100	Sep. 2001	(f)	100	-	-	Chemical Investment Bank
CSFB Finance (Neth.)	50	Aug. 2003	(f)	98.875R	-	-	CSFB
Stapbank	100	Aug. 1996	(f)	98.75R	-	-	Goldman Sachs Intl.
Banque Paribas	50	Feb. 1996	(f)	100R	10.000	+570 (m)	Paribas Capital Markets
Goldman Sachs Group	100	Aug. 2003	(f)	98.825R	-	-	Goldman Sachs Intl.
STERLING							
Kingdom of Sweden	250	Dec. 1998	7	99.2R	7.188	+38 (7 1/4% - 98)	UBS/SG Warburg Secs.
Hewlett-Packard Finance Co.	100	Dec. 1996	7.125	98.81R	7.132	+30 (7 1/4% - 98)	Goldman Sachs Intl.
Coca Cola (H.K.)	75.825	Aug. 2003	6.25	100	-	-	Merrill Lynch Intl.
Anglian Water (H.K.)	65	Aug. 1998	6.5	111.5	-	-	J.Henry Schroder Wagg
Greenfield Group (S)	103.993	Sep. 2003	7.1	(f)	-	-	J.Henry Schroder Wagg
SBG (Deutsch.)	258.25	(f)	zero	-	-	-	UBS
Witten Investment Co. (S)	56.25	Sep. 2008	6.25R	100	-	-	Baring Brothers & Co.
St International, Neth.	150	Aug. 2003	7.75	98.88R	8.223	+72 (8 1/4% - 03)	SG Warburg Securities
YEN							
Taipei Corp.	20bn	Nov. 1997	4.05	99.95R	-	-	Yamaichi Intl. (Europe)
Taipei Corp.	10bn	Nov. 1998	4.8	100.075R	4.778	-	Nikko Europe
Tokyo Land Corp.	30bn	Aug. 1997	4.8	100R	-	-	Yamaichi Intl. (Europe)
CTIC	30bn	Mar. 1996	4.125	99.97R	4.15	-	Nikko Europe
Mitsubishi Corp. Finance	20bn	Dec. 1996	4	100.5R	3.638	-	Merrill Lynch Intl.
Mazda Motor Corp.	20bn	Aug. 2000	5.1	99.825R	-	-	Nomura International
NSK (J)	20bn	Aug. 1997	4.05	99.9R	-	-	Nomura International
Mitsui & Co.	10bn	Nov. 2000	4.8	100.2R	-	-	Fuji Intl. Finance
Mitsui Motor Corp.	10bn	May 2000	(f)	100R	-	-	Sanitono Finance Intl.
Mitsui & Co. (USA)	5bn	Nov. 1996	4.9	100.35R	3.768	-	Mitsubishi Finance Intl.

Borrower	Amount m.	Maturity	Coupon %	Price	Yield %	Launch spread bp	Book runner
CANADIAN DOLLARS							
Sudwest LB London Cap. Mkts.	200	Aug. 1997	6.5	98.75R	6.573	+28 (m)	Lehman Brothers Intl.
ITALIAN LIRA							
Abney National Trans. Services (I)	150bn	Aug. 2000	10	101.875	9.820	-	J.P. Morgan
AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS							
State Bank of South Australia	100	Sep. 1998	6.75	100.75	6.569	-	Hambros Bank
DANISH KRONER							
Mortgage Bank of Denmark	750	Sep. 1998	8.75	98.67R	8.850	-	Morgan Stanley Intl.
Finance for Danish Ind. (D)	200	Aug. 1998	7	102.125	6.509	-	Morgan Stanley Intl.
Great Bull	500	Sep. 2003	7	100.425R	6.940	-	Morgan Stanley Intl.
SWISS FRANCS							
Osaka Electric Co. (J) (H)	80	Aug. 1997	1.125	100	-	-	Bank von Ernst & Cie.
Osaka Electric Co. (J) (H)	200	Aug. 1997	1	100	-	-	Credit Suisse
Dalio National Invest. Bank	100	Aug. 1998	4.375	102	3.927	-	Banca del Gottardo
LUXEMBOURG FRANCS							
RZB, Vienna	1bn	Sep. 2003	7.5	102.5	7.142	-	Crédit Européen

NEW ISSUE These securities having been sold, this announcement appears as a matter of record only. JUNE 1993



Bank of China

(established under the laws of the People's Republic of China)

U.S. \$200,000,000

Floating Rate Notes 1998

Credit Suisse First Boston Limited

S.G. Warburg Securities

ABN AMRO Bank N.V.

BNP Capital Markets Limited

Commerzbank Aktiengesellschaft

Deutsche Bank AG London

The Development Bank of Singapore Ltd.

Dresdner Bank

Fuji International Finance PLC

Goldman Sachs International Limited

Merrill Lynch International Limited

Mitsubishi Finance International plc

Samuel Montagu & Co. Limited

J.P. Morgan Securities Ltd.

Morgan Stanley International

Nomura International

Salomon Brothers International Limited

Paribas Capital Markets

Swiss Bank Corporation

UBS Limited

Bank of Tokyo Capital Markets Limited

Bankers Trust International PLC

Banque Bruxelles Lambert S.A.

Bayerische Vereinsbank Aktiengesellschaft

Crédit Commercial de France

IBJ International plc

Investment Company of The People's Republic of China (Singapore) Pte Ltd

Lehman Brothers International

LTCB International Limited

Nikko Europe Plc

Westdeutsche Landesbank

Yamaichi International (Europe) Limited

Girozentrale

WATERGLADE INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS PLC

INCORPORATED IN ENGLAND COMPANY NUMBER 1711623

ISSUE OF 2,623,261 WARRANTS TO SUBSCRIBE FOR ORDINARY SHARES OF 1P EACH AT PAR

APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE TO THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE FOR THE ABOVE SECURITIES TO BE ADMITTED TO THE OFFICIAL LIST.

FULL PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE REGISTERED OFFICE OF THE COMPANY

WATERGLADE HOUSE 37 IRELAND YARD LONDON EC4A 3DQ

FOR A PERIOD OF FOURTEEN DAYS FROM THE PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE AND FROM THE COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENTS OFFICE OF THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE DURING THE TWO BUSINESS DAYS FOLLOWING THE PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

NOTE: THIS ANNOUNCEMENT APPEARS AS A MATTER OF RECORD ONLY. ALL THE WARRANTS HAVING BEEN ISSUED AS PART OF A RECONSTRUCTION OF THE COMPANY'S ISSUED CAPITAL.

DATE OF ISSUE 2 August 1993.

DOORNFONTEIN GOLD MINING COMPANY LIMITED

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

(Registration No. 05/24708/08)

ANNOUNCEMENT

An Industrial Court judgement, in which an order was given against Doornfontein for payment of compensation and reinstatement of employees dismissed in December 1991, has been handed down and is being studied.

As soon as reasons for the judgement are received, Doornfontein will consider what further action it needs to take.

Johannesburg

30 July 1993

A member of the Gold Fields Group

CONTRACTS & TENDERS

HUNGARY INVITATION TO TENDER

Air Traffic and Airport Administration
Komplex Foreign Trade Company

IMPLEMENTATION OF AN AIRPORT TERMINAL AREA RADAR CONTROL SYSTEM

In the name of the Air Traffic and Airport Administration of the Ministry of Transport, Communication and Water Management of the Republic of Hungary, the KOMPLEX Foreign Trade Company invites bids for the supply, installation and commissioning of a Terminal Area Radar Control System (with a complete software documentation) at Budapest Ferihegy Airport. The Republic of Hungary has signed a finance contract with the European Investment Bank (EIB) for the partial financing of the project.

The tender is open, under the same conditions, to all firms (natural persons or corporate bodies) from at least the member countries of the European Communities (EC) and Hungary.

The complete tender documents will be available starting August 2nd, 1993 from:

KOMPLEX Foreign Trade Company
Andrássy út 10
H-1807 Budapest VI.
Hungary
(Attention: Dr. Novák Lajosné, Head of Department)
Telephone: (36-1) 132-0592
Fax: (36-1) 131-6527

The tender documents may be consulted on the premises of the KOMPLEX Foreign Trade Company between 09:00 and 14:00 on workdays or purchased against payment of a non-refundable fee of USD 1000 (or, in case of Hungarian companies, of the equivalent in Hungarian Forint converted at the current official exchange rate). Payments must be made either in cash or into Komplex Foreign Trade Company's account no. 202-10816 at the Hungarian Credit Bank.

Bids, in English and accompanied by a bid security for 10 percent of the bid amount, shall be forwarded to the Komplex Foreign Trade Company at the above mentioned address before 13:00 on October 28th, 1993, when the tenders will be opened by the tender board. The tender results will be made public on December 15th, 1993.

LEHMAN BROTHERS

Est. 1850

The Tradition Continues...

August 2, 1993

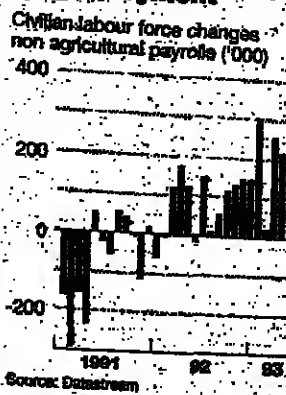
ECONOMICS

Depressed indicators from Germany bring more bad publicity for Europe

THE important German employment and output figures due out this week will be viewed in a subdued light after the weekend's developments in the ERM.

West German unemployment is forecast to rise by 30,000, a little more than the previous month's 29,000. The outlook for employment is similarly bleak: it is expected to fall by a further 38,000, following the June fall of 35,000.

US employment



German industrial production and manufacturing output are both expected to have been flat in June, after rises of 1.3 per cent and 1.5 per cent respectively over the previous month. Manufacturing orders, predicted to fall 1 per cent, would have deteriorated even further from the May figure, which rose 3.8 per cent.

Overall, another dose of depressed figures from the German economy will only add to the theorising about the future for European exchange rates, which has followed in the wake of the Bundesbank's decision not to cut the discount rate at last week's council meeting.

It is a busy week for figures in the US. Observers will be especially watching the July figure for non-farm payrolls

turing payroll figures, for example, to be a reliable guide to the level of overall economic activity.

The following are some of the week's other economic highlights and events. The figures in brackets are the median of economists' forecasts from MMS International, a financial information company.

Other US data out this week - manufacturing payrolls, hourly earnings and the new unemployment rate - will help to provide a more balanced view of the state of the US labour market. Unusually low employment growth has so far been a stubborn feature of the American economy's recovery. As a result, fewer economists now consider manufac-

ture payrolls figures, for example, to be a reliable guide to the level of overall economic activity.

The following are some of the week's other economic highlights and events. The figures in brackets are the median of economists' forecasts from MMS International, a financial information company.

Today: US, July NAPM (48.5 per cent); June construction spending (up 0.5 per cent). Japan, July car sales: first 20 days of the July trade balance; July trade balance. Korea, July trade balance. Australia, New South Wales Bank Holiday.

Tomorrow: UK, July M0 (up 1 per cent on month, up 4.3 per cent on year), official reserves (up \$100m). France, Franco-German meeting in Paris, scheduled from June 25. Germany, German Bond consortium meets in Frankfurt to set the terms of a new federal bond issue. US, June leading indicators (up 0.3 per cent). Johnson Redbook week ended July 31. Australia, Reserve Bank of Australia monthly board meeting.

Wednesday: US, Fed releases Tan Book for August 17 FOMC meeting; June home comple-

tions; car sales July 21-31 (7.0m units); truck sales for July 21-31. Canada, July foreign reserves (up C\$300m).

Thursday: Spain, July official reserves (\$44.5bn). US, initial claims week ended July 31, state benefits week ended July 24, June factory goods orders (up 2.1 per cent), June factory inventories, money supply data for week ended July 26.

Friday: Germany (west), July unemployment (up 30,000); June employment (down 38,000); July vacancies (down 2,000). Germany (east), July unemployment. US, July non-farm payrolls (up 150,000); July manufacturing payrolls (down 10,000); July hourly earnings (up 0.2 per cent); July unemployment rate (7.0 per cent); June wholesale trade; June consumer credit (up \$2.0bn). Canada, June employment (unchanged); June employment rate (11.3 per cent).

During the week, Germany, June industrial production (0.0 per cent); June manufacturing output (0.0 per cent); June manufacturing orders (down 1.0 per cent). Italy, July consumer price index (4.4 per cent). Switzerland, July federal consumer price index.

Stephanie Flanders

RESULTS DUE

BOTH Royal Dutch/Shell and British Petroleum report their second quarter results on Thursday. Shell is expected to show a healthy rise in current cost income from \$256m to about \$270m.

Results will have benefited from a weaker pound, stronger natural gas prices in the US, cost-cutting and solid performance from non-OSCO countries. The biggest question hangs over the dividend payment, which will not be announced until September 18. This time last year, BP announced a dividend cut and \$585m of post-tax, exceptional restructuring provisions. For the latest quarter, analysts are looking for replacement cost net income of \$240m with a dividend of \$2.1p.

Abbey National is expected to show pre-tax profits of around \$15m after bad debt provisions of some \$16m when it reports its interim results today. It is expected to be hit by provisions on French operations, but show strong mortgage lending in the first half.

Tomorrow National Westminster is expected to show profits in the range of \$280m-\$350m with a strong performance anticipated from treasury and capital markets. The bank is likely to cover its interim dividend for the first time since 1990.

Wednesday's parent bank HSBC Holdings reports on August 31, is expected to contribute pre-tax profits of around \$200m on Wednesday,

while Barclays on Thursday is expected to show recovery from losses last year to pre-tax profit of between \$120m and \$170m.

The interims from Reed Elsevier, the international publishing and information group on Thursday are the first combined results since the merger of Reed International and the Dutch publishers Elsevier took effect at the beginning of the year. That and a change of year end appears to have made City analysts wary of issuing firm forecasts but James Capel is looking for combined pre-tax profits of \$287m compared with \$270m last year.

CSN's interim results, to be announced on Wednesday, are expected to reflect at least partly the very tough times

now being experienced in the Continental motor industry, where vehicle markets have plunged by up to one third this year. But analysts don't expect too sharp a fall-off from last year's \$65.1m pre-tax, thanks to a continuing effective onslaught on costs, still buoyant UK production and increasing market share for key products like constant velocity joints.

The following day TI, the specialist engineering group, is expected to report interim profits of a little more than \$60m. The market will be concentrating on the recently announced Dowty aerospace division's results with Messier-Bugatti of France and Dowty's overall performance in a difficult market.

UK COMPANIES

TODAY
COMPANY MEETINGS:
ACT, Hyatt Regency Hotel, 2, Bridge Street, Birmingham, 10.00
Cupid, Metcalf Drive, Altham, Accrington, Lancs., 10.30
BOARD MEETINGS:
Ashted
Interims:
Abbey National
BBA
Skipton Bldg. Scty.

TOMORROW
COMPANY MEETINGS:
Charter Cons., Royal Westminster Hotel, 48, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W., 12.00
Festivals, Winston Manor Hotel, Beacon Road, Crowborough, East Sussex, 12.00
Safeland, Safeland House, Park Road, East Finchley, N. 3.30
Seaboard, The Hawth Theatre, Crawley, West Sussex, 11.00
Vibroplant, Most House Int. Hotel, Harrogate, 1.00
BOARD MEETINGS:
Finale
Beales Hunter
McKay Securities
Prior
Williamson Tea
Interims:
Chieftain
GKN
Glynwed Int.
Midland Bank

THURSDAY
AUGUST 5
COMPANY MEETINGS:
ACT, Hyatt Regency Hotel, 2, Bridge Street, Birmingham, 10.00
Cupid, Metcalf Drive, Altham, Accrington, Lancs., 10.30
BOARD MEETINGS:
Ashted
Interims:
Abbey National
BBA
Skipton Bldg. Scty.

NatWest Bank
Pacer Systems
TR Pacific Inv. Tst.
Utd. Breweries
Yorkshire Chemicals

WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 4
COMPANY MEETINGS:
Ball (A.H.), 50, Stratton Street, W., 10.00
Halmia, Savoy Hotel, Strand, W.C., 12.00
Northern Foods, Grange Park Hotel, Wilberby, Hull, 12.30
Racal Electronics, Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, W.C., 11.45
TR Technology, 3, Finsbury Avenue, E.C., 12.30
United Inds., Barkby Road, Leicester, 10.30
BOARD MEETINGS:
Finale
Beales Hunter
McKay Securities
Prior
Williamson Tea
Interims:
Chieftain
GKN
Glynwed Int.
Midland Bank

COMPANY MEETINGS:
BTP, Cafe Royal, 68, Regent Street, W., 12.00
Beverley Grp., Hyde Park Hotel, 66, Knightsbridge, S.W., 11.00
Bradford Property Tst., Victoria Hotel, Bridge Street, Bradford, W. Yorks., 12.00
Cropper (James), Burnside Mills, Kendal, Cumbria, 10.30
Eastern Electricity, Cambridge Corn Exchange, 3, Parsons Court, Wheeler Street, Cambridge, 11.00
GEI Int., Savoy Hotel, Strand, W.C., 12.00
Northern Electric, Northumbria Centre, Washington, Tyne & Wear, 11.00
Ramco Oil Services, Kings College Conference Centre, Regent Walk, Aberdeen, 12.00
Shelton (Martin), Parkway Hotel, Otley Road, Leeds, 12.00
Sims Food, Sims House, Sims Food Park, Sherbourne Drive, Milton Keynes, 2.30
South Western Electricity, Plymouth Pavilions, Plymouth, 11.00
BOARD MEETINGS:
Finale:

Crown Eyeglass
Interims:
Anglo & Overseas Tst.
Barclays Bank
British Alcan Aluminium
Covle (T)
Jacobs (John I)
Kleinwort Benson
Read Int.
Rotork
TI Grp.
Transport Dev.

FRIDAY
AUGUST 6
COMPANY MEETINGS:
Chubb Security, Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, W.C., 11.45
BOARD MEETINGS:
Finale:
Wholesale Fitting
Interims:
Inv. Tst. of Guernsey
Newmarket Venture Capital
North Grp.

Company meetings are annual general meetings unless otherwise stated.
Please note: Reports and accounts are not normally available until approximately six weeks after the board meeting to approve the preliminary results.

DIVIDEND & INTEREST PAYMENTS

TODAY
Aberdeen Corp. Gas Anns. 12.5p
Abstrut Pl. Inc. Inv. 2.90625p
Acal 4.2p
Am. T & T \$0.33
Amertech \$0.92
Amersham Int. 9.5p
AMP 11 1/2% Bd. 2001 £115.0
Atwoods 1.75p
BOC Grp. 11.9p
Bell Atlantic \$0.67
BellSouth \$0.69
Campbell Soup \$0.25
Computer Prod. O'sess Fin. 7% Cv. Bb. Bd. 1999 \$35.0
Courtauld 10.2p
Dunedin Inc. Grwth. Inv. Tst. 5 1/2% Pf. £1.75
EFM Inc. Tst. 1.275p
Fleming Merc. Inv. Tst. 1.675p
Granada Cv. Pf. 3.75p
HSBC 11.69% Bd. 2002 11.69p
Harris (Philip) 4.65p
Kobe (City) 9 1/4% Gtd. 2000 \$462.50
Land Securities 9 1/4% Cv. '04 \$234.375
Lyttelton Hdgcs. 0.3p
Mitsubishi Petro. 4 1/4% Bd. 2000 Y131944.0

Net Home Loans Sec. FRN 1995 \$2.11
Pacific Televis \$0.545
Porthmouth & Sunderland News. 6.62p
Quality Care Homes 1.5p
Southwestern Bell \$0.3775
Thom EMI Cap. 5 1/4% Gtd. Rd. Cv. Pf. '04 £143.75
Tung Ho Steel 4 1/2% Bd. 2001 \$400.0
US West \$0.535

TOMORROW
Anglo Am. Corp. of SA R2.55 BAA 9.75p
Brit. Gas Int. Fin. 12% Gtd. '96 £800000.0
Cambridge Water £1.15
Clyde Blowers 4p
Cons. Builtform Mine R0.0425
Cranwick 5.6p
Davenport Vernon 1.5p
De Beers 40% Cm. Pf. R1.0
De Beers 8% Cm. 2nd Pf. R0.04
Electronic Data Processing 2p
Gen. Motors Acceptance Can. 13% Nts. Aug. '94 £650000.0
Griqualand West R0.205

Monks Inv. Tst. 4.7p
Shanks & McEwen 3.44p
Tiger Oats 5.5% Cm. Pf. R0.055
Treasury 8 1/4% 1994 £4.25

WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 4
Borthwicks 0.7p
British Syphon Inds. 62.35p
CSR A50.12
Deelkraal Gold Mining R0.05
Driefontein Cons. R0.90
Gold Fields Coal R0.40
Hardy Oil & Gas 1p
Kool Gold Mining R0.65
LPA Inds. 1.65p
Marubeni 4.6% Nts. '97 Y120111.0
Scapa 4.03p

THURSDAY
AUGUST 5
Archimedes Inv. Tst. 9p
Bradford Property Tst. 3p
Control Techniques 2.35p
Cosmos Sec. FRN Y1167945.0
Hafslund Bldg. Scty. 9 1/4% Ln. Nts. '93 \$36.25
Hocking Pentacost 2.85p
North West Water 1.4.27p
Refresh Tranche A Perp. Sc.

FRN Y1144110.0
Do. Tranche B Y1167945.0

FRIDAY
AUGUST 6
Caldwell Invs. 0.3875p
Cape 7.75p
Chloride Grp. 8% Cm. Pf. 2.1p
Cleveland Pl. 7 1/4% Rd. Db. 88/93 £2.717808
Heavtree Brewery 0.6p
Do. A Lim/Vig. 0.6p
Kleinwort Charter Inv. 1.25p
Pall Corp. \$0.08
Powell Duffryn 16p
Randfontein Estates R1.10
River & Merc. Am. Cap. & Inc. 1.8p
RTZ 13.5p
Securguard Grp. 4.5p
Stannards 1.4p
Treasury 9 1/4% 2012 £4.50
Wah Kwong Shipping HK\$0.39
Watson & Philip 4.4p
Western Areas Gold Mining R0.25
Whitbread 7 1/4% Rd. Db. 89/94 £3.875

SATURDAY
AUGUST 7
British Petroleum 2.1p

RENEWABLE ENERGY

A Seminar for Prospective Generators

25 AUGUST 1993 9.30am

Balmoral Conference Centre
Kings Hall
Belfast

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THIS SEMINAR YOU CAN RESERVE A PLACE BY CONTACTING:
MRS BERYL MCMAHUS
ENERGY EFFICIENCY SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
NETHERLEIGH, MASSEY AVENUE, BELFAST BT4 2TP
TEL 0232 529387 FAX 0232 529550

LEGAL NOTICES

Company No. 2616701 Registered in England and Wales
INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
RECEIVERSHIP OF THE ASSETS OF
GERALDO LIMITED
Passed 16 July 1993
At an extraordinary general meeting of the above named company duly convened and held at 20 St. Andrew Street, London EC4A 3AY on 21 July 1993 the following resolutions were passed: No 1 as an extraordinary resolution and No 2 as an ordinary resolution: 1. That it has been proved to the satisfaction of this meeting that the company is unable to pay its debts as they fall due and that it is expedient to wind up the company and that it is advisable to wind up the company and that accordingly the company be wound up voluntarily. 2. THAT M. J. Addy and A. S. M. Robinson, of 20 St. Andrew Street, London EC4A 3AY be and they are hereby appointed liquidators of the company with authority to act separately in all matters.

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CONFERENCES & EXHIBITIONS

AUGUST 24-27
7th Eastbourne PR Summer School
Broaden your knowledge and enhance your career by learning more about Planning & Management of PR or PR Practice on these fully residential courses. Course Directors Michael Bland and Robert Keen. Contact: Colin Ringrose, Populus Communication Tel: 071-814 9770 Fax: 071-873 3975/3969

SEPTEMBER 29/30
Managing Business Regulation
A two-day conference for directors and senior managers, focusing on risks associated with various company compliance issues and how to manage them successfully. Chairman: The Rt. Hon. Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Chairman of the Financial Law Panel. Contact: Patricia Sheldon, Gae Conferences Tel: 071 538 5386 Fax: 071 538 8623

SEPTEMBER 29/30 & OCT 1
The Health of Nations 1993
Health of Nations: Ormand, Goss & Ellender on policy issues and impact on providers, suppliers and investors. James Watson, Rolf Kohn and Lady Cumberlege address this international conference sponsored by The World Health Organisation, European, medical, pharmaceutical, health care bodies, consultants and banks. Information: Clyfford Ltd Tel: 0225-466744 Fax: 0225-442903

SEPTEMBER 14-16
European Printer, Copier and Colour Conference
London Metropolitan Hotel
Three Days of Conferences providing a vital opportunity for those involved in the marketing, design and support of printer, copier and colour equipment to discuss and shape the future of their industry. Enquiries: Erid O'Connor 0895 835050

SEPTEMBER 15-18
World Mobile Communications
The conference will look at mobile communications growth and technologies together with the challenge of developing a mass market personal communications system. Enquiries: Financial Times Tel: 071-814 9770 Fax: 071-873 3975/3969

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SEPTEMBER 15-18
VITRUM '93
South Pavilion, Milan, Italy. Machinery, equipment and installations for the manufacture of flat and blended glass, and glass products for industry. Reserved for trade only. For further information contact: Fiera Milano, Largo Domodossola 1, 20145 Milan, tel (39 2) 49971, fax (39 2) 4997 7179 or, in the UK: OTSA Ltd, tel 071 486 1951

SEPTEMBER 15-18
EUROAID '93 Conference
European Community Aid for Development
Aid Programme opportunities for EC countries (40 billion ECU by 1999) in: Africa, Caribbean, Pacific, Asia, Latin America, Mediterranean, Central & Eastern Europe and CIS. Contact: Societe Generale de Developpement S.A. Tel: +32 2 512 4636 Fax: +32 2 512 4633

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* ET Chasing Jack Teas: Between dial (0001 or 0006) (00000), codes 4 and 5 are in the first digit code listed below. Calls are charged at 35¢/minute cheap rate and 48¢/minute at all other times. International access available by subscription only. For more details call the F.I. Cityline help desk on (714) 966-7666.

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● FT Cityline Unit Trust Prices: dial 1 888 1 433 0000, enter 4 and key in the five digit code listed below. Calls are charged at 38p/minute cheap rate and 48p/minute at all other times. International access available by subscription only. For more details call the FT Cityline Help Desk on 1 888 1 433 0000.

● FT Cityline Unit Trust Prices: dial 1 888 1 433 0000, enter 4 and key in the five digit code listed below. Calls are charged at 38p/minute cheap rate and 48p/minute at all other times. International access available by subscription only. For more details call the FT Cityline Help Desk on 1 888 1 433 0000.

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MANAGED FUNDS: SAVING

Prices for 12 funds were officially indicated and those designated as "new" were marked with an asterisk. Funds with asterisks are not buying expenses. For U.S. dollar funds a 5% sales charge is added to capital gains tax on capital appreciation. For foreign funds a 5% sales charge is added to capital gains tax on capital appreciation. For U.S. dollar funds a 5% sales charge is added to capital gains tax on capital appreciation. For foreign funds a 5% sales charge is added to capital gains tax on capital appreciation.

Transamerica Securities Co. is a member price indicator. The company's prices are based on the prices of the funds' assets. The company's prices are based on the prices of the funds' assets. The company's prices are based on the prices of the funds' assets.

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CURRENCIES, MONEY AND CAPITAL MARKETS

FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND MONEY MARKETS

Crisis continues

AFTER last Friday's unprecedented turmoil in the European exchange rate mechanism, dealers were still waiting last night to see whether the Bundesbank and the Bank of France would resign the currency grid or suspend the system, writes James Ritz.

At the end of trading on Friday night, three currencies, the French franc, the German mark and the Danish krone were at, or slightly above, their floors against the D-Mark in the ERM. Both the French and German central banks had intervened heavily in support of the French franc, possibly to the tune of DM500bn.

Yesterday, dealers in London were wondering how they would respond in the event of various outcomes to the crisis. In the event that the system is suspended, the French franc could come under more selling pressure. But Mr Paul

POUND SPOT - FORWARD AGAINST THE POUND

Day's	Open	High	Low	Close	1m	3m	6m	12m
Jul 30	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 29	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 28	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 27	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 26	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 25	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 24	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 23	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 22	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 21	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 20	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 19	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 18	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 17	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 16	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 15	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 14	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 13	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 12	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 11	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 10	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 9	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 8	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 7	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 6	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 5	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 4	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 3	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 2	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 1	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000

DOLLAR SPOT - FORWARD AGAINST THE DOLLAR

Day's	Open	High	Low	Close	1m	3m	6m	12m
Jul 30	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 29	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 28	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 27	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 26	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 25	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 24	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 23	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 22	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 21	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 20	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 19	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 18	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 17	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 16	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 15	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 14	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 13	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 12	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 11	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 10	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 9	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 8	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 7	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 6	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 5	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 4	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 3	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 2	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 1	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000

EXCHANGE CROSS RATES

Day's	Open	High	Low	Close	1m	3m	6m	12m
Jul 30	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 29	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 28	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 27	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 26	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 25	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 24	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 23	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 22	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 21	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 20	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 19	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 18	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 17	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 16	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 15	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 14	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 13	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 12	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 11	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 10	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 9	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 8	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 7	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 6	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 5	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 4	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 3	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 2	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Jul 1	1.4780	1.4820	1.4740	1.4780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000

EURO-CURRENCY INTEREST RATES

BIBU-COMPOUND INTEREST RATES												
Jul 30	Short Term		7 Days notice		One Month		Three Months		Six Months		One Year	
Refiling	6%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Refiling	6%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Refiling	6%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Refiling	6%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Refiling	6%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Refiling	6%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Refiling	6%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Refiling	6%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Refiling	6%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Refiling	6%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Refiling	6%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Refiling	6%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Refiling	6%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Refiling	6%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Refiling	6%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Refiling	6%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Refiling	6%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Refiling	6%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Refiling	6%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Refiling	6%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Refiling	6%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Refiling	6%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Refiling	6%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Refiling	6%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Refiling	6%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Refiling	6%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Refiling	6%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Refiling	6%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Refiling	6%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Refiling	6%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Refiling	6%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Refiling	6%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
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INVESTMENT TRUSTS - Cont.**INVESTMENT TRUSTS - Cont.**[illegible]

Grosserlar	302	1.9	0.4 M
Worms	20	9.8	-

Greenland Home	79		
Graylines	3	1.8	0.8
Groceries Direct	184	-2.8	1.8
Group Inc	387		0.3
Handyman Services	80		2.8
Units	122	0.5	3.8
Star Pk	175		5.8
Harvard Highland	135	0.8	
Warman	26	4.8	
Headwaters Group	228	3.8	1.4
Home #1 Smk Cos	120	0.8	
Hong Kong	42	3.7	1.25
Insurance	34	1.5	
Zero Day Pk	30	1.0	
ISS Definition	82	6.5	7.45
Zero Day Pk	298	1.8	
I & S UK Smk Cos	94	3.8	
Wardens	10	2.0	0.8
Independent	53	1.4	0.8
Wardens	517		
Investors Cap	134	2.7	5.15
Investors Pk	34	1.5	

One Month	94	72	22
Jon Hodge Capital	75	42	-
Investment	88	38	11.8 Mo

[illegible]

Package 1000	133	19	1.75500
10 & 12 2nd Dual 1000	145	0.7	23.06 Jd

[illegible][illegible]


MINES - Cont

	Total
60-69	8.11
70-79	3.62
80-89	7.49
90-99	6.97
100+	5.22
All ages	.57
Male	.46
Female	.66
White	10.22
Black	4.89
Hispanic	14.86
Other	8.11
Married	3.62
Never married	7.49
Divorced	6.97
Widowed	5.22
Married	.57
Never married	.46
Divorced	.66
Widowed	10.22
White	4.89
Black	14.86
Hispanic	8.11
Other	3.62
Married	7.49
Never married	6.97
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4 pm close July 30
NYSE COMPOSITE PRICES

Table with multiple columns listing stock prices, including company names, prices, and volume. Includes a sub-section for 'Continued from previous page'.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Table with multiple columns listing stock prices, including company names, prices, and volume.

AMEX COMPOSITE PRICES

Table with multiple columns listing stock prices, including company names, prices, and volume.

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MONDAY INTERVIEW

Cause of southern discomfort

Umberto Bossi, leader of Italy's Lombard League, speaks to Robert Graham

Punctuality, wrote Oscar Wilde, is the thief of time. Mr Umberto Bossi, leader of Italy's populist Lombard League, seems to have taken this dictum to heart. In a country where punctuality is usually honoured in the breach, Mr Bossi is supremely unpunctual.

Does this reflect his belief that he can set his own agenda or does he become so deeply involved in issues and people that he loses track of time? It is probably a mix of both. His aides despair of trying to organise his schedule; but they are fiercely loyal, attracted by his energy and boundless confidence in his self-appointed mission to change Italy.

As the interview begins - one and a half hours late - he tosses a police summons contemptuously into the waste paper basket. Hasn't he been warned that he faces prosecution for insulting the head of state, President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, "I don't care," he says.

Mr Bossi can afford to be cavalier. He is the sole genuinely new leader to emerge in Italy at a crucial moment of political transition; and, unlike the discredited political class whose hegemony he is challenging, he owes favours to nobody. The League, founded in 1984 as a regional autonomy movement for Lombardy, is virtually his invention.

"First we set out to conquer the north... and look where we are now," he says in his gravelly voice. "Then we take over the south, and finally we march on Rome like Carlibaldi. It will be difficult, but we have begun to work on the south."

This may seem wishful thinking. But in the space of three years, the 51-year-old politician from Varese has propelled the League from an obscure regional grouping to a party that controls 40 per cent of the vote in the rich northern industrial belt of Italy. The Lombard League itself has spawned federations in neighbouring Piedmont, the Veneto, Liguria and Emilia Romagna.

The League now controls the administrations of a string of northern towns, including Milan, the capital. It has 80 seats in parliament, and Mr Bossi himself at the April 1992 general election received

239,000 votes - more than any other deputy.

"We are not separatists but federalists," he says. In the past six months, Mr Bossi has toned down his talk of separatism. But when separatist language does slip into public speeches this is Mr Bossi talking from the heart.

A hard core of League supporters embraces the idea of separatism. But Mr Bossi knows that the "honest voters" he needs to swell his ranks want to hear a more sober message touching on practical concerns of the day.

"The north is against centralised control of the state, against statism," he says. "We strongly support privatisation. Here in the north people work hard, they produce things; there are thousands of small and medium-sized industries. This is one of the most advanced regions of Europe. Our development cannot be held back by paying taxes to support the south."

"We are not anti-south; but we are against the way the south has been enslaved by the Christian Democrats and allowed to live off state hand-outs."

In other words, national resources have to be better and more fairly used. At a time of serious recession, the north wants to see more of its tax money ploughed back into job creation and infrastructure in the region. If not, Mr Bossi raises the threat of separatism, but less stridently now than a year ago.

Mr Bossi has learned fast to be a national figure and has tempered his crude vocabulary and use of Lombard dialect. Yet his conversation is still peppered with hyperbole and dogmatic assertion about the inevitable collapse of a corrupt ancien regime.

"The system is imploding under its own weight... The roof of the building has been falling in, the walls are crumbling. We have 4.5m people receiving fake disability pensions. We have allowed the national debt to pile up without control. It can't go on."

In one of his many brushes with the establishment, Mr Bossi encouraged his supporters not to buy treasury bills. But he now backtracks, a recognition of the fact that his vote is made up of small traders and businessmen, worried savers and pensioners - just the kind of people who put



Alfonso Press Agency

'We are not separatists but federalists'

their savings in low taxed treasury bills.

"I didn't actually tell people not to buy treasury bills. I was saying that people here do not want to see their savings going towards propping up the regime's wasteful spending; public borrowing should go towards supporting productive investment. And if it doesn't do this voters should draw their own conclusions."

The same view applies to his controversial threat to institute a campaign of non-payment of taxes. This touches all

financing have responded to the will for change. Together they are filling the political vacuum."

The League has been the main political beneficiary of the magistrates' investigations that are laying bare the depths of the traditional parties' corruption. Not surprisingly Mr Bossi opposes any curb on the magistrates' powers. "The magistrates cannot be stopped. The revolution must be allowed to go on until it loses its own momentum."

"Fresh elections are the only means of ending *Tangentopoli* (the corruption scandals). We must go to the polls as soon as possible." The present legislation, with one in six parliamentarians under investigation, has no legitimacy, he adds.

Despite having been vociferous in demanding elections this autumn, he is now less dogmatic. "The longer we are kept waiting, the more our support grows," he says. The sooner elections are held, the less time his opponents will have to recover their disarray and form new alliances.

Mr Bossi is disdainful of alliances. Most of the time, all the political parties - of every colour - are ranged against the League. "We don't mind people can see the rest are intent on bailing out change."

Such determination to go it alone is perhaps rooted in his tough origins. League literature describes him as the son of a "Catholic worker" father and a mother of "small-holder origins". His origins are similar to many of his generation: the first to enjoy higher education and benefit from industrial modernisation in the north.

Mr Bossi failed to complete

PERSONAL FILE

1941 Born in Cassano Magagnago, near Varese.

1968 Drops out of Pavia university medical degree.

1982 Founds Lombard Autonomy League.

1984 Lombard League formalised, becomes leader.

1987 Elected senator.

1989 Elected leader of Federation of North League movements.

the right visceral chords of his League supporters. "When Rome is run by a bunch of robbers how can you expect people in the north to pay taxes?"

Significantly, with Mr Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, former governor of the Bank of Italy, now prime minister and a man long seen as guarantor of the small saver, Mr Bossi is less strident on this issue.

However he has not mellowed his tone or changed his stance in his opposition to corrupt local administration and national government. "Only the League and the magistrates investigating the corruption scandals of illicit party

Adult European partner wanted

The fate of the franc is more than a matter of French pride. It is the essential test of European monetary co-operation, and will determine the fate of European Monetary Union.

Few European politicians of stature have questioned these propositions in the currency turmoil of the past nine months. Still fewer have queried the assumptions behind EMU.

Now, in the moment of supreme crisis, many are predicting the collapse of the Exchange Rate Mechanism with dire consequences for European political and economic integration.

A paper on US-European Community relations by the Carnegie Endowment Institute for International Peace offers a more balanced picture of the EC's future. Whatever the disadvantages of distance from daily events, the authors have produced constructive proposals which are a welcome change from "all-or-nothing" mentality gripping many European policy-makers.

Mr Robert Zoellick, a former aide to Mr James Baker while he was US secretary of state, chaired the study. His premise is Americans should not magnify the EC's problems, but should instead pursue America's "strategic interest" in having an outward-looking, internationalist EC as an adult partner on the world stage.

Mr Zoellick writes: "The emergence of new economic and political obstacles should not be misperceived as a European rejection of the fundamental commitment to overcoming a destructive legacy through closer integration. European integration will proceed - albeit in fits and starts - although its exact course is still an open question."

The study's main proposal is the creation of a "transatlantic single market". That sounds like a cute re-working of European Commission President Jacques Delors' 1992 project to create a single European market covering the free movement of goods, services, capital and people. But the group is

more intent on drawing up new rules to defuse trade rivalries and head off the subsidy wars which currently plague the agricultural, textile and steel industries.

Other ideas include a protocol on foreign investment, reaffirming "national treatment" for European and US firms operating in their respective foreign markets; closer co-operation on industrial and environmental policies; and new rules providing for more predictable tax policy.

The implicit message in the paper is that Clinton should take a more activist approach to the EC's development. No historical parallels are perfect, but Mr Zoellick's inspiration may well be the Truman

sweetener - more involvement for the EC in international councils such as the Group of Seven industrialised nations - will not dispel the impression the US wants to stop a Trojan horse into Europe.

From Brussels's vantage, the most refreshing aspect of the paper is that it takes European aspirations for closer integration seriously. This should silence those in Europe who believe the US is part of an Anglo-Saxon plot to sabotage EMU, a notion which gained currency in the second battle for the franc last February.

Yet it remains true that many Americans find the European attachment to the Exchange Rate Mechanism and the convergence criteria on inflation, budget deficits and government debt baffling. They find it incomprehensible that Europeans are willing to suffer high unemployment for the questionable prize of fixed exchange rates.

This was the message behind last week's call by six leading economists at Massachusetts Institute of Technology for France to lead the way in the abandonment of the ERM. The Six Wise Men argued in the FT that Europe is repeating the mistakes of the 1980s, when countries tried to hang on to the gold standard at any price.

The response in Brussels is unchanged. Mr Delors has argued that maintaining the franc-D-Mark parity aims to avoid the mistakes of the 1930s, when Europe fell victim to competitive devaluations.

The last 12 months have shown that the franc-D-Mark parity is less about economics and more about politics. It may be the men from MIT have overestimated the Bundesbank's power to set the EC's political course. Final judgment will rest on the response in Paris and Bonn.

Lionel Barber

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Market Myths and Dull Forecasts for 1993
The US dollar will move higher, and stay there. The Japanese yen will move lower, and stay there. The British pound will move higher, and stay there. The German mark will move higher, and stay there. The French franc will move higher, and stay there. The Italian lira will move higher, and stay there. The Spanish peseta will move higher, and stay there. The Portuguese escudo will move higher, and stay there. The Greek drachma will move higher, and stay there. The Turkish lira will move higher, and stay there. The Indian rupee will move higher, and stay there. The Pakistani rupee will move higher, and stay there. The Bangladeshi taka will move higher, and stay there. The Sri Lankan rupee will move higher, and stay there. The Nepalese rupee will move higher, and stay there. The Maldivian rufiyaa will move higher, and stay there. The Maltese lira will move higher, and stay there. The Cypriot pound will move higher, and stay there. The Gibraltar pound will move higher, and stay there. The Jersey pound will move higher, and stay there. The Guernsey pound will move higher, and stay there. The Manx pound will move higher, and stay there. The Isle of Man pound will move higher, and stay there. The Channel Islands pound will move higher, and stay there. The British Virgin Islands dollar will move higher, and stay there. The Cayman Islands dollar will move higher, and stay there. The Falkland Islands pound will move higher, and stay there. The Gibraltar pound will move higher, and stay there. The Jersey pound will move higher, and stay there. The Guernsey pound will move higher, and stay there. The Manx pound will move higher, and stay there. The Isle of Man pound will move higher, and stay there. The Channel Islands pound will move higher, and stay there. The British Virgin Islands dollar will move higher, and stay there. The Cayman Islands dollar will move higher, and stay there. The Falkland Islands pound will move higher, and stay there.

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Return of the pessimists

We don't hear so much nowadays about the New World Order. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, you could hardly turn a page without stumbling over some novel prescription for perfect peace. If it was not The End of History, it was the model of the Solitary Superpower. And if it was not collective security in a pan-European confederation, it was the coming-of-age of the UN and emerging world government.

The utopians have mostly fallen silent now, because their recipes have curdled. Whatever Francis Fukuyama thought he meant, history continues to plague us in all of its familiar dimensions; and however glad we may be to see the back of the Old Order, the new world is characterised by a degree of disorder which far exceeds the capacity of our existing institutions to contain it.

At the time, the Gulf war was a heartening exploit of UN solidarity and American military leadership; with hindsight, it does not look so good. Only six months ago, the second Start agreement seemed a historic move to put the genie of nuclear holocaust back in the bottle; today it is re-emerging in Ukraine, Pakistan, North Korea and look so good. Japan. And then there is Bosnia; even an agreement in Geneva would only mark a new phase of that particular nightmare.

Pessimists always expected things to go wrong, and policy analysts always emphasise the down-side. Otherwise they have nothing to sell. Sooner or later, one of the pessimistic policy analysts was bound to



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come along with a counter-theory, to explain why things will be just as bad as before, but for different reasons.

Samuel Huntington is professor of the Science of Government at Harvard. And his theory is that global politics will in future be dominated by the clash of civilisations. "The fault lines between civilisations," he says, "will be the battle lines of the future." That, is just the kind of sentence you would expect from a pessimistic policy analyst.

Mr Huntington identifies seven or eight large civilisations: Western, Confucian, Japanese, Islamic, Hindu, Slavio-Orthodox, Latin American and possibly African. And he suggests that the deep-seated differences between these civilisations may also become battle lines in future. The world is getting more crowded so people fall back on kith and kin. Economic modernisation weakens the nation state, so religion moves in to fill the gap. But economic modernisation also builds up regional economic integration. Finally, the power of the West, now at an all-time peak, provokes the other civilisations to return to their cultural roots.

Central to the Huntington hypothesis is the idea that these civilisations will be not just distinct but antagonistic. And the future, according to Mr Huntington, will be defined by relations between the West and the Rest. These relations will be essentially conflictual, because there cannot be a world civilisation of universal values transcending cultural differences. "Western ideas of individualism, liberalism, constitutionalism, human rights, equality, liberty, the rule of law, democracy, free markets," he says, "often have little resonance in Islamic, Confucian, Japanese, Hindu, Buddhist or Orthodox cultures." In particular, there is a deep-seated antagonism over political and human rights values.

The West is now "at an extraordinary peak of power", according to Mr Huntington. As a result, the strategic postures of other civilisations will be defined by their attitudes to the West; and they have three broad options. They can choose isolation, like Burma and North Korea; they can try to join the West, like Mexico; or they can modernise while seeking allies against the West, like the countries of South East Asia. But the most likely prospect, according to Huntington, will be conflict between the West and several Islamic-Confucian states.

To meet this threat, the West needs to promote greater solidarity within its own civilisation, especially between Europe and North America; to co-opt related cultures in Eastern Europe and Latin America; and to co-operate with Russia and Japan. It must also maintain its economic and military

power to protect its interests.

The problem with the Huntington thesis, is that he does not provide convincing arguments for expecting the age-old antagonisms between civilisations to get much worse in future. The rise of fundamentalism in India and the world of Islam, or the growth of regional trading arrangements around the world, do not seem adequate reasons.

On the other hand, there is one development which could easily cause antagonism between civilisations to degenerate into conflict, and that would be a serious shift in power relationships between them. Mr Huntington asserts the West is at a peak of its power, as if this were a peak on which it could expect to remain. But it is more likely that Western power is really at a high water-mark, shortly before the tide starts to ebb.

Fifty years ago, the US totally dominated the world economy. It is now rivalled by Europe and Japan. In a generation it could be challenged by China. Europe is a partner in the Western civilisation. Japan professes an uneasy associate membership of the West. But China will always be another civilisation. For hundreds of years the West has dominated the world economy, because it controlled technology and dictated the terms of trade. In future, technology will be more equally accessible, and others will start determining terms of trade. It is this which will bring the clash of civilisations.

*The Clash of Civilisations? Samuel P Huntington, in Foreign Affairs, Summer 1993, 58 East 68th St, New York

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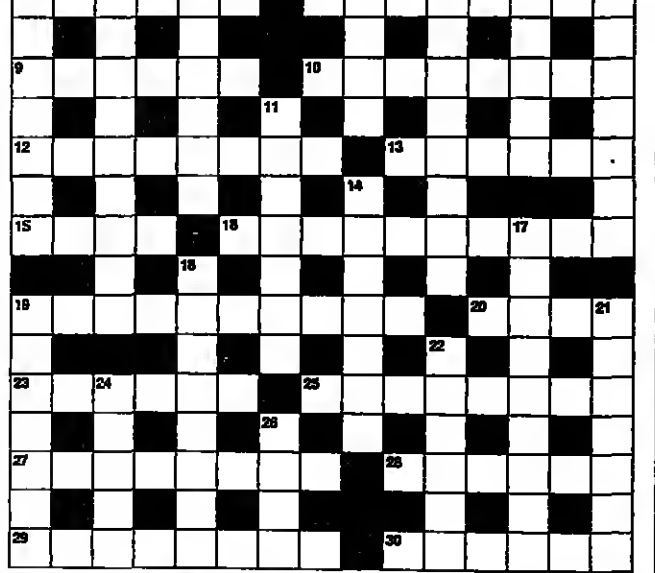
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Of broking and jolting the Pelikan's fond.
See how sweetly he puts your word onto bond.
Pelikan
JOTTER PAD

CROSSWORD

No.8,217 Set by DANTE



- | | |
|--|--|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Controlled by hanks, this divides capital (6) | 1 Moving passage from Tristan (7) |
| 4 Regard as deliberate (3) | 2 Northern city road (9) |
| 9 Believe one will agree to an invitation? (6) | 3 Discovery means' plea is changed (6) |
| 10 Kapt away from soft food (5,3) | 5 One shouldn't lie under it (4) |
| 12 A free boarder (5) | 6 Open clash that reveals the strength of one's hand (3) |
| 13 The single boy in a family is very much a favourite (4,2) | 7 The wastage is very large among doctors (6) |
| 15 Conceited fellow given to publicity (4) | 8 Cultured and splendid in crimson (7) |
| 18 A sphere lacking reality (5,5) | 11 A sort of fire screen (7) |
| 19 Urge a chap to become a PR man (5,5) | 14 Receiver heading for one's home - it's serious! (7) |
| 20 Tall cut to a point (4) | 15 Stacks fruit vehicles (9) |
| 22 Arrested, but made a nimble getaway (6) | 16 Insisted on a fresh dessert (8) |
| 25 Two fools in murderous combination (5) | 19 Criticise long dash (7) |
| 27 What a change it makes to one's winnings! (8) | 21 A unit is ordered to somewhere in N. Africa (7) |
| 28 Sarah's crazy to worry (6) | 22 Country girl on the vessel (6) |
| 29 Reforming me in the finish (8) | 24 Sound of harmony is musical composition (5) |
| 30 Ill feeling (8) | 28 Article concerning the unknown (4) |

The solution to last Saturday's prize puzzle will be published with names of winners on Saturday August 14.